



Skygardening

a poem by

Xespuzzuo

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Preface

The story you're holding right now is the culmination of my experience exploring the Kirby series for a few years. However, this is actually an "Adventures of Lolo"/"Eggerland" fan project. You will find that Lolo's story is told in an accurate way, while Kirby characters are often re-imagined. Same thing could be said about pokemon characters; there are no trainers to speak of.

Perhaps the reason why I tend to be faithful to games like Eggerland is due to how these have a light plot to them, or are games that aren't really known, which means it can give me an opportunity to build upon them and show them to a new audience. I think it's like a playground or sandbox for me to use.

As for Kirby... Well, I love that franchise! I think the fact that the world building and setting is exotic and particular makes it fun to write about it. While the lore may be complicated, it can do me a favor by giving me things to play around with. I can write about spiders on a flying Kingdom full of plants, or about the lives waddle dees under the reign of King Dedede, or about the residents of Popstar speculating about the ancients. It might be very likely that there could be more works coming up that tell tales of this planet... or star.

Sectonia remains a hero in this story, and the reason for her to be that way will be answered as you read through it.

Pokemon have a lot of potential for character design, and sometimes I see other creators have the time of their lives using that potential to make Pokemon characters. They do come in the package of an archetype, with designs that I often like. If I'm not happy with a design, I can take the liberty to tweak it a bit. They also have magic, or some sort of magic, which makes them more "special" in comparison to just using normal animals or beings. Like some sort of refined beings. The lore is interesting, but it's not too complicated in comparison to other RPGs, however, this allows me to build upon it and turn it into some kind of page turner. It does have some aspects of mythology, and sprinkles of "fun facts" about a lot of their species.

I'm also fascinated by the lake trio. They're not as popular as other legendaries. You don't often hear people writing stories about them or making their own lakesprit characters. For me, they're like mascots of psychology, since they represent faculties of the mind. I like the idea of myself being represented by a lakesprit, since I'm a psych major myself, it's part of my life. And since they're connected to Arceus, it gives me ideas of giving them some interesting lore and stories myself.

While the PMD comic I have been doing since 2022 did give some bits of lore, this story will truly be the first time I inject a huge chunk of lore into my characters. It establishes a lot of continuity, multiple worlds, names, and the core features that I want to put in my works. From this point forward, my works will be more than pieces of art to look at, they'll be topics of discussion, speculation, and imagination. And I'm all for it.

I write this poem with established characters and worlds from gaming (with original fan characters in between) rather than fully original characters and worlds for a few reasons. One obvious one being that I love them. The second reason being that I'm using this as a way to train

myself and learn about the things I love before making fully original stuff. The third reason is that I'm enjoying this while I can.

But if I were writing this as a fully original work, there would be a few things I would change (apart from the obvious stuff), like the "evil clones" that come from the mirror world. I would've rather wanted more original villains.

I call this a poem, despite it being narrative, as long as a novella, and barely rhyming at all. There's a reason for all of this. The text is told in lines rather than paragraphs as a way to keep some kind of rhythm and pace. It's a way to keep information more organized, by not having to write it in paragraphs and lines of varying sizes. It also evokes the state of poetry before the arrival of the novel, like the "Odyssey" or the "Divine Comedy". This work does have some elements of epic poetry to it, like having deities, battles, and strong feats, so I believe this would be fitting for it.

One final thing. This poem uses a narration system where the main text is narrated in first person from Povynn (me), with the footnotes explaining things and linking to endnotes, and the endnotes serving as other points of view. It was inspired by David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*. I figured out this makes a good compromise between having a story in first person, and being able to talk about other characters.

Book I – Soaring the Sky

1 - Welcome to Floralia

Over a morning sky filled with stars, two of my friends fly alongside me.
Below us, lies Planet Popstar, a five-pointed astronomical body.
With it's forests, plains. mountains, and seas, you could easily make it your home.
But, one of its most special features is the flying Kingdom of Floralia.
Filled with life and vegetation, it's a miracle of sustainable environments.
After learning about its beauty, I suggested taking a trip there with my friends.
By my side, flies Emronia, she's got long silver hair, and pink peaks above her hair.
At my other side, flies Quentin, who also has longer silver hair, but with blue highlights.
The three of us also happen to be all lakesprits¹, two-tailed psychic beings.
We might be a bit smaller than humans. Each one of us three are like... one meter tall.
That is as tall as a kitchen counter top, or a guitar, or a wolf, for comparison.
But, despite our size and kind image, we're associated with magic and legends.
As we cross through the clouds, the sky clears to reveal our destination.
Floralia is composed of six main islands, each one hovering at a different height.
Though, they're actually six chunks of islands, each one with a big island at the middle.
Each one houses different expanses of land. Each one feels like a different world.
As for where we'll land, that'll be the highest great island of this Kingdom, Royal Road.
That is the metropolis of the country. Above its clouds there are castle walls and towers.
Gears spin between the bridges that connect each section of the city.
Turbines move amongst all the cogs, that catch the force of the winds of the sky.
Narrow rivers, which work as aqueducts, flow from the top to the bottom
Blimps float down to the lower islands, with sails that adjust to their winds.
We arrive at the gates, as we land on a platform filled with brick tiles of warm colors.
Not only it had the typical red color of bricks, but also, other shades of red too.
At the edges, there are sidewalks of white stone, with subtle flower patterns.
The clouds at our shoes cross through the trees and paths that lead to the city.
We're wearing winter clothes, similar to those that mountain hikers wear.
I myself wear a yellow puffer jacket that almost reaches the floor.
Beneath it there's a deep gray suit that's a combination of a sweatshirt and pants.
My two other friends also wear similar clothes, which are conveniently color coded.
Some guards come near us, wearing bug-shaped helmets, and ask for our names.
"My name? I am Povynn Kalisvir, a lakesprit who travels across space" I tell them.
One of them asks "Good to know. By any chance do any of you bring mirrors?"
I shake my head. I don't bring mirrors inside my backpack, since they could break easily.

¹ "Lakesprit" is an umbrella term for members of the lake trio, and other beings that are of the same "species" as them. The lake trio are also called "Lake Guardians", and lake guardian is also a synonym for lakesprit.

The guards analyze Quentin, and look below his hat, white hair, and blue cheeks.
He opens the pockets beneath his cloak, only showing a phone, a wallet, keys, and a book.
The guards look at Emronia, and search below her long silver hair and pink body.
She opens her purse, showing her possessions, which include a makeup kit.
The guards open it, and turn their heads away in disgust. The kit had a mirror.
"Unfortunately, this item is not allowed to enter our Kingdom." One guard says.
Another guard points out "You should know that we're having... issues with mirrors."
"So, if you desire to roam this country, you ought to leave it behind." The first guard adds.
Emronia lowers her head, and hands over the kit. "Okay then... you may take it."
The great gates open up for us, as this beautiful realm weaves in front of us.

2 - A City of Plants

We cross the gates and we are greeted by a city filled with art and green spaces. Our eyes stare at the multiple floors of buildings and gardens stacked on each other. We walk through streets with no cars, but, with trolleys and pedestrians instead.

Then, an elevator lowers us below the bridges to the shops and restaurants.

The doors open as we see multitudes of plant-people, of the same size as us. Their heads are like flowers, with faces on them, and they wear leaf-like cloaks.

And they can hover over the air, and float anywhere, as if gravity didn't exist.

"I wonder if Kirby will take a stand." One of them whisper amongst the crowd.

Another one by the side shrugs, "I doubt it, we haven't seen him in months."

"I'm hopeful. He's the hero of the lower world after all, you know?"

Whenever I hear about Kirby, I often hear legends and epic feats about him.

But despite this, he looks small and cute, just being a pink ball with a cute face.

He has two blue eyes, two red bean shaped feet, and two pink nubs for arms.

It's possible for him to even flap his arms and fly on the air while holding his breath.

There is a lot of him for me to tell about. But, as for now, let's resume this journey.

The scenery down here is beautiful, the buildings remind me of Art Nouveau.

Many of them have flower patterns painted on them, and fabric patterns even.

On top of their tiled roofs, several of them have small farms of potted plants.

We walk to a cafe that had some delicious chocolates displayed on the windows.

Not only that, but also pancakes, waffles, and cakes of cream and strawberries.

The owner's a nice plant-lady, wearing a cute white apron over her green dress.

She tells us that her species is commonly referred to as "People of the sky."

The cooks, of the same species, also make some real gourmet dishes.

Quentin's mouth is watering as he stares at the sandwiches he ordered.

He also ordered many brownies with ice cream on it, and two milkshakes.

Guess what... I'm getting a sandwich too, with some fries on the side!

Emronia gets herself a salad with bread sticks and some protein in it, coated in sauce.

She just happens to love that sauce. I enjoy it as well, ever since she told me.

"So, what other kinds of beings live here?" I ask the owner.

In the kitchen, I see some kind of spider cook, with a hat, making some waffles.

That cook appears to actually look friendly, with light hair and a dark skin.

The owner tells me, "Well, you might also have heard of the cloud spiders."

"They have white hair, horns, and skin of chestnut" she adds, "Our Queen is one of them."

Emronia then asks her, "Oh nice! May I ask, what is her name?"

The owner giggles and then says "The name of Her Majesty is Queen Sectonia."

"She loves plants, art, and fashion." The owner tells her, "You'd be amazed to see her."

"Oh! She seems amazing! I also happen to love these things!" Emronia responds.

"I can tell you for sure that she is a beautiful and caring ruler." The owner tells us.

Emronia gasps and blushes, and thanks the owner for the service.

And so, we enjoy the rest of our plates, thinking of how kind Florarians are.

3 - Chased around

The food was so satisfying in there! After this, we plan to get souvenirs.
But, as look at the key chains, magnets and stickers we could buy...
Rustles of leaves and falling objects make us turn our heads.
A white-haired spider emerges from some bushes and flies away.
He carries a huge bouquet of flowers. So big, that some even fell.
And yes, just like the people of the sky, he could freely drift through the air.
His red scarf waves as he holds it tight with his white and orange gloves.
He looks back to see the one-eyed scarflies that chase him.
As their jaws close and open below their single eyes, which is not their usual form.
Naturally, scarflies are orange orbs with ears, and two axolotl-like eyes.
But, I've been warned that if they were angered, they would turn into this.
Their two eyes would become one, and their skin would lose its saturation.
People would warn me about them whenever I mentioned going to Popstar.
Anyways, I extend my hand to summon my weapon, and it flashes before my eyes.
An artifact from atop the mountaintops, reflecting the colors of its temple.
Its segmented pole and point shine in white, golden, and azure.
Creator and shaper of islands, whisk of the seas². A present from the maker.
It fully forms as I lift off and run away, until my tails get pulled by my friends.
"Povynn! No, let's not get in trouble! It's our first day here, you know?" Emronia alerts.
I then swipe and pull away my tails out of their hands and fly towards the scarflies.
"Leave the spider alone!" I scream as I guard the arachnid behind me.
But the scarflies direct their anger at me and launch themselves towards me.
With my spear, I pick one of the scarflies that faces me, and throw it towards another.
When the two scarflies touch, they blow up like dynamite in front of all of us.
Then a third one flies away from the explosion right towards my face.
And with a swing of my weapon, I slice it away, making it explode in front of me.
The blast sends me through the air, back to the island, as I lose my senses.
I... I end up... I think I'm on the arms of Quentin and Emronia now.
"Povynn? Are you okay?" she asks me. "Yes, I'm doing fine" I tell her.
I touch my face and realize it got covered with some kind of gunpowder.
As I get more of my conscience back, I notice that the spider I helped looms on the side.
"I want to thank you, Povynn. You didn't have to do that, but, thanks!" He says.
Sometimes I feel guilty when I hear I didn't have to do something.
Yes, I am aware he's thanking me, but, that still touches something in me.
Then I respond, "You're welcome, young spider. By the way, what is your name?".
"My name is Taranza. I am a royal servant of the Queen." He tells me.
"Nice to meet a spider like you, Taranza. My name is Povynn."

² It's a reference to the myth of the Ame-no-Nuboko, a spear used by Izanagi and Izanami to create the first landmass.

4 - Council of the Seven Years

We cross hedge mazes that surround the center of the city, and we sit by a fountain.

On the top of a fountain we see a statue of people of the sky and spiders.

With their faces looking at what seems to be the islands rising off the surface.

"Oh, do you know what this is supposed to be?" Taranza points out.

The three of us shrug off. And so, the spider brings up the history of this Kingdom.

"It is told that hundreds of years ago, the ancestors of Floralia lived on the ground.

They lived on a small town called... Botoria, where both spiders and plants gathered.

But one day, magically, a group of islands next to Botoria were lifted off the ground.

And so, since they could fly, they settled a new land above the sky, calling it Floralia."

"I wonder what has been of Botoria³. Is it still here?" Quentin asks.

The spider scratches his back and looks from one side to the other.

He then asks us quietly, "Have you ever heard about Dark Mind?"

We shake our heads, as we had never heard that name before.

And so, he tells us some more of the history of this country.

"Hundreds of years ago, when Floralia was finally hovering over the sky...

A masked lord emerged from the sky, and gave himself the name... Dark Mind.

He attacked Botoria, and so, Floraliens had to defend themselves and seal him off.

Hence, Botoria has been converted into a memorial, and a reminder of that time."

Emronia covers her mouth, "Oh no! Then, I hope Floraliens stay safe now."

"We are trying our best, at least I hope so." Taranza says as he looks into the distance.

He then turns and says, "You might be aware that he's haunting us with his return."

Emronia gasps, while Quentin calms her down. "I... I was not aware of that." I say.

Taranza then says, "Well, just so you know, his sorcery revolves around mirrors...

They could appear anywhere, and could haunt anyone, hence, we prohibited them.

Floralia, and the nation of Eden Land⁴ are working together⁵ to fight Dark Mind.

We had even formed a special group to track him down, one which I'm part of.

We call ourselves... the Council of the Seven Years." He bowed in front of us.

I stand up, "Taranza, you might be shocked, but, I'd like to join you.

I'm a lakesprit, and us lakesprits have a lot of vigor within.

I'm someone who aspires to be a legend, someone who wants to be in history books.

As a hero, as someone who saved a world from its most dangerous foes.

Not just because of the honor, but, because I want to be an example for others.

I believe in the potential of others, and I want to awaken their motivations.

So, please, allow me to join the Council of the Seven Years."

³ Botoria, and several events in Floralian history are an original creation of this poem. Some elements may come from the games that HAL developed, but, this poem adds onto what has been previously established or hinted at.

⁴ Eden Land is a country in the Eggerland/Adventures of Lolo series. Lala originates from there.

⁵ See endnote 1: "Figured it Out".

Taranza blushes and adjusts his scarf, "Are you sure? It might be challenging!" "I still want to help you, you already saw me defend you. I believe I can do it." I tell him. The spider lets out a breath, and turns to me, "I'll tell the rest of the council about it. How about you two? Could you can lend a hand." He extends one of his six gloves. Emronia blushes, "Well... since I'm here for traveling reasons, I might turn it down. However, I still believe in helping the Floralians, since I love their culture." "No worries," Taranza tells her, "We can offer you tasks where you help our citizens." "I'm interested in those too," Quentin said, "They might make this tour more fun." Taranza hands us paper cards, "Tomorrow, you three can visit us at the Royal Palace." "Thank you, Taranza, I promise we'll be of great help!" I tell him and keep the card. As he flies away into the distance, the three of us go back into the center of the city. Royal Road is composed of several islands, with its middle one being the biggest. That one is called Floria Rellajiza⁶, and it houses most of its residential buildings. This name, which is the one by which Floralians it, translates to Restful Blossom. Floria Rellajiza is shaped like a flower of five petals, and it has three layers. Right now, we're on the outer part of the middle layer, these are the Outside Gardens. They're a perimeter to the inner part of the middle layer, which is the Sepal Layer. The Sepal Layer is where most Floralians live, in apartments of around five stories. Some of these buildings also have cafes or other small businesses on them. And on some areas, there can be inner gardens, housing other kinds of plants. Some of these plants in these gardens give out fruits, or serve other purposes. A lot of them can take the smoke away, or grow into wood that fire cannot consume. There is another layer behind, at the bottom, however, we haven't visited it. "So, let's find a hotel." Emronia tells us as she climbs the stairs to one of the petals. Yes, at the edge of each petal, there are stairs that connect the gardens to the city. As we climb, we see sign that tells us that this petal is called "Petal Barofoja". Petals usually have a street at its center, divided by a wide gap of air, into the sky. Each one of these streets bear the same name as its corresponding petal. Then, there are "middle streets" that run in a perpendicular way to the main streets. These ones tend to have a little park or plaza at the middle of their trajectory. And finally, there are little walkways at the edges of each petal. "Oh, Povynn! I think this one may be good for us." Emronia points out. I turn to a hotel with spiral shrubs, and by the name of "Palazio DePulvino Hotel."

⁶ A lot of the places in Floralia have names original to this poem. The language they come in is inspired by romance languages. This is done to keep consistency with other names like "Floralia", "Sectonia", and "Taranza".

Book II - Your Majesty

1 - Honored to Meet Them

The next morning, we wake up at some cozy beds, all sharing the same bedroom.

"Quite neat that this hotel let us have a bedroom with three beds" Quentin says.

I respond, "Yeah, despite everything, Floraliens can still give up a good service."

Through the windows we can see a beautiful sky at the beginning of this day.

The horizon looks almost clear with a blue hue, with a few blue clouds.

I can see small airships flying down to the lower islands, and one far beyond this country.

That one, the one that is really far away, appears to be long, and has wings and a mask.

I look at the card I got yesterday. It's Taranza's business card, which has his number.

Last evening, when we arrived at this hotel, I called him and asked about the meeting.

He'll wait for us in front of the palace, along with the Queen herself.

I was also told that there will be brunch, prepared by her own royal cooks.

So we put on our clothes. I'm still wearing my puffer jacket, but I got a new suit beneath.

It's nearly identical to the first one. It's a backup I put on while the other one gets washed.

We stock ourselves, and pack important things inside of the pockets of our outfits.

And so, we go and thank the people who serve at this hotel. They even gave us directions.

As we leave the hotel, we look the scenery of this precious place once again.

It's beautiful and full of life here on the middle layer of Royal Road, beneath the bridges.

I see gardens, restaurants, libraries, and apartments across the road.

On the other side, there's a park with trees and patches, which reaches to their ledges.

Beyond that, there's another floor of buildings beneath us, which we haven't visited.

They look a bit more industrial. Gears and turbines spin at their sides.

And tubes transporting water and other supplies go from one building to the other.

I look at a map, which tells me that floor is the bottom layer, the "Roziobajo Layer".

Apparently, machines in this layer take used water, and clean it back into recycled water.

And at the edges, there are the turbines that provide Floralia with more electricity.

I look back at the street of the middle layer, and make my way along with my friends.

We walk across the tiled road as younger Floraliens play by the park.

A young person of the sky, a kid, tells another, "Here's a rumor I've hear recently..."

If you chant Dark Mind into a mirror at midnight thirteen times⁷, he will take your soul."

Another kid, a spider, laughs and then says, "Well, there's no way we can do that now."

An elevator takes us above, as its cogs spin and its rope pulls us upwards.

Its gates open, and we find ourselves at the middle of the main square of this city.

This is the Luzolar Layer, the roof of the city, where the light arrives first.

Across us there are tiled roads that fork out of this square, into different places.

Places like cafes, museums, post offices, parks, libraries, and government buildings.

A lot of those buildings have conical roofs, each one topped by a hovering sphere.

⁷ It's a nod to the urban legend of Bloody Mary.

There is a secret between those roofs, that they hide to the naked eye.
You see, Floraliens often design their buildings as a marriage of style and ecology.
And so, they make roofs that include solar panels, of different colors and shapes.
A lot of them resemble the tiles of old fashioned buildings or castles.
One of the ways that comes out of this square leads towards the Royal Palace.
This way, or petal, that leads to the Queen, has the name of Petal Miraculia.
It's named after a certain fruit or blossom native to the Floralian islands.
The walkways on Petal Miraculia, here at the top, are split by a huge lake in between.
And beyond the walkways, towards the edges of the petal, trees make up a garden.
As we hover above the lake, I hear a subtle howl of the wind, and calm rustles of leaves.
It almost resembles the ambiance that I hear when I'm out in the countryside.
At the end of the lake, there lies the entrance to the Royal Palace of Floralia.
There we can see the spider we met yesterday, Taranza, waving his gloves at us.
He has six gloves, I think that's quite neat for a spider like him.
"Good morning, Taranza. I'm ready to meet the Queen." I tell him.
Taranza blushes, "I'm glad you are! She is the Queen of my heart. I love attending her!"
"Then, I bet she must be really charming!" Emronia giggles.
Taranza giggles back, "She is! Come on, follow me." He says as he leads the way.
The entrance has a small fountain that feeds into the lake, and stairs around it.
Windows of patterns and walls of many colors decorate the facade.
The castle's walls open, leading to a wide hall, filled with ornaments and patterns.
Above us there's a clear roof, giving the building some natural light.
"This portion of the Palace is where Her Majesty and her staff work." Taranza says.
On the sides, we can see rooms with libraries inside them, and meeting rooms.
There are also offices, or workspaces, too. There's even a room with a grand piano.
The hall then leads outside, to a big bridge of stone, leading to a small floating island.
This island is shaped like a gem, with a round cut, and has a tower sitting atop.
It's often called the Torre Dellacimma, and its tower is the highest point of the Kingdom.
We walk, or hover, above the bridge, as the wind blows on our faces.
"This is where Her Majesty rests and dines, along with her most important staff."
Taranza presents the island to us, which flies above the rest of Royal Road.
Patches of grass surround the tower, and behind it there's a garden with a roof of trees.
We enter the tower, and ascend to the top, where her throne sits.

2 - A Royal Encounter

Inside the royal tower, it looks even more beautiful, it's filled with details.
We even see banners waving with the wind, showing an emblem of the Queen.
Taranza then shows us the well-designed door that leads to the throne room.
He looks through his pockets, and pulls a key, which then goes into the door.
Not only he uses a key. His gloves light up, as if he were to use magic.
Gears and cogs turn and rotate as the door opens up. The key is taken off at the end.
With that done, Taranza bows to us as we enter the throne room of the Floralian Queen.
The room is decorated from the floor tiles, the carpet, to the columns and the ceiling.
Big pots having several types of plants of them hang by the walls.
The clouds above Popstar can be seen between the chiseled pillars at the sides.
Above those clouds, we could see a myriad of stars, and planets beyond this one.
A long carpet leads towards the monarch, sitting on a big comfy throne.
Pillows and cushions that resemble flowers and spider webs sit there as well.
She has long white hair, yellow horns, and pink eyes with eyelash over her brown face.
She is... just like Taranza, a cloud spider, and she even wears similar clothes.
Her hair is longer than his, and she has some clean white and pink gloves.
We stand in front of her and bow, as Taranza presents us.
"Your Majesty! These are travelers that have come across galaxies and planets...
They're the legendary beings known as lakesprits, bearers of gems and tails.
Their desire is to assist the Council of the Seven Years on their quest.
Their names are, Quentin, Emronia, and Povynn!" Taranza says as we bow to the Queen.
The Monarch hops out of her throne, and her cloak waves as she flies towards us.
"It's such a nice opportunity to get to meet you, Queen Sectonia." I bow to her.
She then nods at us "Great to see you as well, travelers. I am grateful for your visit."
The spider Queen then walks away as she waves to us with her glove.
She then brings a silver plate, with borders that emulate flowers and leaves.
On top of it, there's cookies with jelly in the middle⁸, resembling flowers.
She says, "Me and Taranza attempted to research about you lakesprits, but...
We didn't get enough time to really know anything. Would you tell us about you?"
The three of us lakesprits blush and giggle a bit, each one of us taking a cookie.
I tell her, "One ancient legendary being, known as Arceus, created the lakesprits.
Far beyond Popstar, far beyond the planets on your sky, there's the world Arceus made.
The first three lakesprits hatched from one egg, and designed the minds of that world.
Uxie, the yellow one, created cognition. Mesprit, the pink one, created emotions.
And Azelf, the blue one, is said to have created willpower, but you can say it's movement.
We ourselves aren't the original ones. You may say we are brand new lakesprits.
Emronia and Quentin are very close friends who come from a place called Rocomenta.
And I am Povynn Kalisvir. I am a lakesprit who specializes in perception.

⁸ Someone once joked that Uxie's head looks like one of those cookies.

Which means that I can create images, sounds, and illusions.

I will make sure that my abilities will assist you on your mission.

Would you tell us more about yourself, Your Majesty?"

The Queen feels delighted, "About me? Well, I am Sectonia of the Lunae Filum⁹ house.

My family has been taking care of Floralia for a long time, as civilians and as royals.

We started out as residents of Botoria, and then contributed to Floralia's history.

My ancestors built some of the parks, and developed technology for this country.

Eventually, we were chosen to rule¹⁰ this country, and it's been good ever since."

I nod, "And we can keep it up. Speaking of that, would you tell us about Dark Mind?"

The Queen says, "Oh, sure. Did Taranza tell you about the Council of the Seven Years?

Me and Taranza are part of it, and we're considering recruiting the three of you."

I stand up firm and say, "Yes, Her Majesty, I'm up for this task. You can count on me."

Emronia and Quentin scratch their heads, and whisper to each other.

"As for you." Sectonia turns to the two other lakesprits, "Taranza did tell me about you.

You can indeed be part of the council too, even if you seek to research and assist."

Emronia nods alongside Quentin, "Then you can count on us, Her Majesty."

Sectonia says, "Before we begin, I would like to take you on a tour, a stroll, if you will."

⁹ This surname is original to this poem. In HAL's works, Sectonia was never given a last name. Though, I figured out she could have a surname of a Romance style, since the names of the characters in Floralia resemble Romance languages.

¹⁰ See endnote 2: "Hedge Mazes"

3 - Fine Fields

The Queen then invites us to fly down to the lowest region of Floralia, Fine Fields. The air is even more pure here. This place is filled with nature, forests, and fields. We walk through gardens that resemble forests, with trees towering over us. And with big circles of neatly placed flowers surrounded by such trees. The Queen then guides us towards the edge of this island, to look at Popstar. A wide panoramic view of the planet, much clearer than the view from above. With her floating glove, the Queen points at what was once a crater on the horizon. Once a crater, now turned into a field of green grass, surrounded by a monument. We take turns holding a spyglass to look at the former town with more detail. The monument has a statue at the center, with bouquets on its surroundings. On that statue, we notice the shape of a snake and smaller beings. We walk back into the middle of this great island, taking a different path now. There are trees of multiple colors, some being pink, and others being yellow. With their gloves glowing, the spiders spawn water that grows the crops. And then, the spiders spin the falling fruits into baskets for them to carry. We walk into some deeper woods, where the trees are as tall as towers. Upon us there are even natural bridges of land, grass, and wood. The streams of water make some sweet noises as we walk the bridges above them. Emronia then asks, "So, how did it start? How did Dark Mind create this crisis?" The Queen explains, "I am glad you asked that question. Here is the rundown. Above the skies of Popstar, there lies a mirror-shaped portal to another land. A completely different realm, which we have called... the Mirror World. It used to be a peaceful region, that is, until some months ago. Eventually, mirrors of that place started reflecting unpleasant images. Not just that, we also heard that those who looked at the mirrors would harm others. And so, we started to dispose of the mirrors, which unleashed his fury. Dark Mind appeared up above on the skies, and released his army. It makes me wonder. If he is providing us with only two options... One being the poison of surrendering and the other the poison of demise... Then, we desire to seek our own good, through our own means." I hear the chirps of birds coming from above the trees, and see rays of sunlight. Leaves fly through the breeze along with seeds of dandelions as we keep going. The patterns on the trunks of the trees feel unique, they look like furniture. The spiders descend one of the bridges as we cross it, and then water the grass below it. From the grass, one of the sprouts that were just as big as us swells several times bigger. And from it, a red fruit with a golden peel spinning around it emerges at its tail. Sparks of light bend are drawn towards it, as the spiders carefully pick it for their basket. "This is one of Floralia's most magical features, the Miracle Fruit." Sectonia points out. Taranza adds, "They house a lot of power, enough for a seed to sprout a giant stalk."

"Though, there can be other special uses for them, I may add." The Queen says.

4 - Out of the Forest

We walk out of the forest as both spiders hold baskets filled with fruits.
The spiders point at a big tree, and we sit there, so we can have a picnic.
From another basket, the spiders bring us brunch for us to have along.
It's the gourmet food that was mentioned to us, the one made by the royal cooks.
I could see it in the quality. The bread slices were perfectly toasted, just a bit crunchy.
I'd also compliment those exotic ingredients and that sauce inside our sandwiches.

And so, we have a nice meal as we watch the clouds slowly fly by in the sky.

Quentin asks, "Her Majesty, do you have a clue regarding... Kirby?"

She then turns to say, "Kirby? I know of him. That's a name you should know!"

"A pink puffball who saved Popstar and other planets several times." Taranza adds.

Sectonia tells us, "He can copy the abilities of others, in such a magical way.

Let it be electricity, fire, or even spawning weapons out of the thin air.

There might be the chance that there's no limit to his potential.

Once upon a time, a dark ball with a single eye, called Dark Matter ravaged Popstar,
He could not only possess people for his own benefit, he could also wield a sword.
Whenever he wielded his blade, Dark Matter would take on the form of a knight.

Thankfully, Kirby was able to defeat him¹¹, but that was not the end of it all.

It turned out that there were more Dark Matters, coming from a single white ball.

Such white ball, with a red eye, was called Zero, and it invaded Popstar as well.

But, then again, Kirby, along with his friends, put a stop to Zero¹² and its plans.

That wasn't the end of it. Zero would emerge once again, with wings this time.

It invaded not only Popstar, but also all the other planets in our star system.

And once again, with his friends, Kirby helped defeat the reincarnation of Zero!¹³

"One might even say he's the Hero of the Lower World!¹⁴" Taranza adds.

Sectonia giggles, and says, "However, he's been missing for several months now.

We could really use his help, as we believe he could even heal the corrupted."

"He did save King Dedede from Dark Matter¹⁵, after all." Taranza deduces.

The Queen then says, "Unfortunately, we will have to do this ourselves.

But, don't worry too much, as we have company." She concludes as she extends her hand.

At the distance, two orbs walk towards us, the two with white shoes and gloves.

One of them blue, and the other one pink, with a white bow on top.

Taranza says, "Lakesprits, these are the King and Queen of Eden Land, Lolo and Lala!¹⁶"

The two of them pose in front of us as they present themselves.

¹¹ This happened in Kirby's Dream Land 2.

¹² This happened in Kirby's Dream Land 3.

¹³ And this happened in Kirby 64: The Crystal Shards.

¹⁴ In Kirby Triple Deluxe, despite all the feats that Kirby has done in previous games, Taranza doesn't consider Kirby the "Hero of the Lower World" until the end of the game, instead, Taranza thinks of King Dedede as such at the beginning of the game.

¹⁵ Also a thing that happened in Kirby's Dream Land 2 and Kirby's Dream Land 3.

"I'm Lolo, and I'm the King of Eden Land, a great friend of Sectonia." Lolo says. Lala then says, "And I'm Lala, the Queen of Eden Land, and part of its lineage." Lolo continues, "We once met at a summit when our parents were monarchs... That's when we met Sectonia, who was a princess during that time. I can tell you, we're not just allies¹⁷... We also have a lot of fun together as friends!" "It's a pleasure to meet you two." Quentin says, as he presents the rest of us. With that done, we chat about each other, and have some laughs. In the meantime, me and Taranza look at each other, and notice something. The two of us tie our scarves the same way! We tie it at the middle! "Oh! Heh, that's interesting, that's a traditional Floralian knot!" Taranza says. I laugh, "I didn't know that. Emronia also tied her scarf like that too!" "I wouldn't mind having something in common with you." Taranza tells me. I blush and tell him, "Yeah, me neither. I think it's actually a cool thing!" "I would love that. I think you'd make a great friend!" The spider says. I then say, "Really? That makes me so happy! I wonder if I could visit you." "Well, since I serve the Queen, her Palace is my dwelling." He laughs. Taranza then waves back at Sectonia, who's having a lot of fun chatting with the others. "Your Majesty. Would you allow me to take care of the palace this evening?" He asks. Sectonia nods, "Yes, I allow it. In the meantime, I can take care of other matters." And so, after this meal, we're parting ways. Emronia and Quentin¹⁸ went their own way. Lolo and Lala went alongside the Floralian Queen, as they had to discuss some business. As for me, I will fly alongside Taranza back into the great island of Royal Road.

¹⁶ Not to be mistaken with Lololo and Lalala. In this poem, Lolo and Lala follow the canon of the Eggerland, or Adventures of Lolo series, rather than that canon of the Kirby games.

¹⁷ See endnote 3: "Laughter"

¹⁸ See endnote 4: "Fine Arts"

5 - The Spider Magician

Before going to the palace, we stop and hover through the streets of Royal Road.

The afternoon is cozy, and slightly warm. It's such a nice ambiance.

Other spiders, and people of the sky, wave back at the two of us.

"Povynn, did you know that I'm a magician?" Taranza asks me.

I say, "Like, the performer type of magician? Or do you do real magic?"

Taranza laughs, "I am a real mage! It's not an act, it is the real thing!"

"Heeelp! Help us please!" Screams are heard from a distant place out of sight.

Taranza guides me, "Povynn, follow me!" He combs every corner of the street.

"There they are!" He flies into an abandoned alley, nearly devoid of light.

Despite this, moss and ivy has grown across the concrete floor and brick walls.

The two of us spot a group of Poppy Bros surrounding a group of spiders.

The Poppy Bros, who are wearing long dark jackets, are chuckling at the spiders.

"Hehe, take a look at these!" They say as they dangle handheld mirrors over them.

Taranza warns me about them. The Poppies tend to throw bombs at innocent people.

Three spiders shake in fear in the corner, covering their faces with their gloves.

"Please... let us go!" One of the spiders say, "We've done nothing to you!"

"Hahah, as that would change anything." One of the Poppy Bros chuckles.

I whisper to Taranza, "Can't they just fly above?", and then Taranza points above them.

There are foleys above the spiders, these are yellow flying beings that can also explode.

They have two eyes of axolotl, and two leaves that spin in circles like a helicopter.

"Now, Povynn, here's how my magic comes into play." Taranza whispers to me.

The foleys open wide their eyes as strings stick into them and pull them out of the scene.

Taranza moves his gloves and strings, as he conducts the foleys out of the island.

"Huh, who took away our foleys?" One Poppy says, "Time for plan B! Bombs away!"

The gang extend their hands, but then their bodies freeze in place.

The intimidated spiders look above and look at Taranza pulling the strings.

"Don't worry, I'll take care of these bandits!" Taranza tells the other spiders.

The gang then hit each other with their mirrors, and spin after hitting each other.

Then, they walk out of the alley, all of it done without their own will.

One of them then trips another one over, and Taranza laughs at them.

"Now, then, stay here!" Taranza tells them as he conducts them to a lamp pole.

The spider magician then spins around, tying the gang with his own strings.

Taranza finishes and shows me that they've been covered from their necks below.

The other spiders hover towards Taranza and thank him for his deed.

"There you have it, I'm an expert in puppetry magic!" He tells me.

I tell him, "That's so cool! Azelf, one of the first lakesprits, can also do that..."

However, Azelf didn't do it with strings. I think the way you do it looks cool!"

Taranza laughs, "Really? If Azelf met me, I bet my skills would amaze that lakesprit!"

After this, The two of us fly towards to the tower where the Queen reigns.

"Let me show you my place." Taranza says as he reveals a room worthy of a nobleman.

A full sized circular bed sits by one wall, with a web-themed cover.

At the other end, there's bookshelves that span most of the wall.

Works of literature are separated into fiction, philosophical, and educational.

Alphabetically sorted games sit at one section of the shelves at the bottom.

In the middle of that wall, there's a television that fits just right in with the style.

Some sofas and divans sit nearby, which look really cozy for a reading experience.

"Quite nice, isn't it?" Taranza asks, "I'm one of the Queen's most loved servants."

I nod, "It is more than nice!" I say as I look at the books he stores in his shelves.

He takes out his diary, writes some notes and leaves it on his huge desk.

"I think this is a perfect place to relax, study, and work." I tell him.

Taranza nods, "I definitely agree! I'm glad you like it!"

He takes a book titled, "Encyclopedia of Creatures of Popstar", and opens it for me.

Watercolor pictures of each species are shown on the pages as he tells me about them.

After the tour, we tell each other fun stories, and play a few games together.

The late night falls, and Emronia calls me, telling me that she's back at the hotel.

I wave my hand at Taranza, and leave the palace satisfied. It's so fun to be with him!

Book III - Mysterious Weaving

1 - Coffee and Questions

A day has passed, and we're once again walking on the tiled streets below the bridges.

"Who do you think would know about Kirby's whereabouts?" Quentin asks me.

I take a look of the place. An aged Floralian hands out balloons to the youth at his stand.

From behind, spiders and other bugs hurry up as they head to work.

A window opens for a person of the sky to water her plants as she sings.

Then, I notice a coffeehouse out in the distance, which houses a library.

The bell rings over the door as we cross it and smell the scent of coffee and wood.

"I'd like a mocha, with extra chocolate on it, of the biggest size." I ask as I sit on a stool.

Quentin takes off his hat and asks, "Oh, I'd like hot chocolate, please."

A whole pitcher filled with some thick brown coffee is served in front of me.

On top of it a layer of smooth cream, which is as thick as birthday cake meringue.

And then, to finish it off, shaved milk chocolate rains above everything.

As I drink it, I overhear a conversation between two clients sitting at a banquette.

"I don't know, Philo. Maybe you should cut Kirby some slack." A waddle doo says.

Philo, a person of the sky, says, "Gaspard. This society asserts good to Kirby.

Kirby is believed to not just be good, but, also almighty. We allow his power to be infinite.

But, the fact that he has not taken the responsibility to help Popstar is telling of him.

Why would a being with such qualities not will it at a time of greatest ill?

Is he willing to prevent evil, but unable? Then he might not be almighty.¹⁹

Is he able to prevent evil, but unwilling? Then he might not be perfectly good.²⁰

Is he the almighty embodiment of love and friendship? Whence then is evil?"²¹

I take a big sip and wonder. Does Kirby have a responsibility to keep the planet safe?

Certainly it's generous of him to help others. But, I wonder if it's a choice or obligation.

It could possibly be that seeing others happy and safe... makes him happy in return.

Philo then says, "I might not remember well, but Kirby once freed Nightmare."²²

He was allegedly the cause of all the disturbing dreams we had a few years ago.

I remember clearly that King Dedede was trying to stop that crisis."

¹⁹ In Kirby Planet Robobot, if you pause while Kirby has no ability, there's text that says that Kirby "possesses infinite power". This is supposedly told from the perspective of Star Dream.

²⁰ The views expressed by the characters in this poem do not necessarily reflect my own views.

²¹ This quote is adapted from a David Hume book, Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion. In that work, the quote happens to be said by a character called Philo. One important thing to note here is that the use of this particular quote is not meant to make a religious statement, but instead it's meant to deconstruct the notion of Kirby having infinite power.

²² In Kirby's Adventure (and its remake, Kirby: Nightmare in Dream Land), at the end of the game, Kirby places the Star Rod on the Fountain of Dreams. This frees the antagonist of the game, Nightmare. But King Dedede didn't want Kirby to free Nightmare, and instead planned to have Nightmare sealed. At the end, Kirby defeats Nightmare.

Gaspard holds his head, "But, Philo. Kirby defeated Nightmare afterwards.
And, for your argument. Even if Kirby were to have done evil things, as you say...
The amount of good things he has done outnumber anything bad you've told me about.
He has even helped King Dedede become better as a person ever since the two met.²³"
Quentin whispers to me, "I believe that King Dedede might know more about Kirby.
Maybe we should pay him a visit, since he's known the puffball personally."

²³ King Dedede was a villain in Kirby's first game, Kirby's Dream Land. But, after that game, King Dedede has generally become more friendly towards Kirby.

2 - Expedition

Just when we're about to head down to Dream Land, I get a call from Taranza himself.

"Hey, Povynn! I wanted to let you know that we're ready for an expedition!

We intend to go somewhere easy, just to let you test the waters.

You could also bring Quentin and Emronia, if they feel like it.

It is optional to come, but, Her Majesty and I would really appreciate it."

I then look at Quentin and Emronia, and ask them, "Well, what do you think?"

Quentin and Emronia look at each other and then nod. This is happening!

We stand on the edge of this island, and stare at other islands, and Popstar's landscape.

Royal Road, the place we're standing on, is the highest island in Floralia.

Below it, there's an island, or great island, which Floraliens called... Endless Explosions.

It's sort of a funny name, don't you think? It's called like that because of its volcanoes.

The heat may make it difficult to dwell there, but, it does have caves filled with gems.

Airships often transport gems from its mines to other of the Floralian islands.

Quentin and Emronia nod at me, and so, the three of us take off, and leave Floralia.

Out in the skies, away from the Kingdom, the council reunites once again.

The blue sky is almost clear, with its few clouds flying in a group of small patches.

We're so high up, at a point where the sky gets darker and shows more of its stars.

Nearly all of us are flying high up above, except for Lolo and Lala who are on warp stars.²⁴

What is a warp star? Well, it's a type of transportation used here in Popstar.

It resembles a golden star of five points, and it has the size of a chair.

Inhabitants of Popstar can find them in the wild, and use them to travel far away.

And yes, they do hover over the air, in fact, they can fly very far away, and fast.

This is also how several dwellers of the surface manage to visit Floralia.

I can even see a trail of miniature stars and glitter as Lolo and Lala pilot them.

"Before we venture into the other world..." Taranza says, "I suggest you wear these."

He then hands us over skydiving goggles with dark polarized lenses.

Higher up in the sky, way above, there floats a mirror with a golden baroque frame.

"That is the portal to the Mirror World." Lala says, "We have to enter one by one."

She then warns, "Though, just to keep you safe, you should close your eyes as you do."

And so, each one of us dive into the mirror, from the royals to us lakespirits.

²⁴ Lolo and Lala don't fly in the Adventures of Lolo series. In the Kirby anime, Fololo and Falala, who are inspired by Lololo and Lalala (from the Kirby games), are able to fly. But, despite the similarity in looks, Fololo and Falala have a way different story than the story that Lolo and Lala have.

3 - Out in the Wild

As I open my eyes, I find myself inside what looks like a giant amphitheater.
This is the entrance to the Mirror World. It's a hub that leads to its many areas.
Big silvery columns form a circle around us, with arches between them.
On top of the columns, a row of smaller columns lies, with moon and star symbols.
And above that second row, I see ornaments of wings, and a fence themed after stars.
Up above us, a purple sky with golden clouds illuminates the area with smaller stars.
My friends and the council stand over platforms of glass that almost look like ice.
I stand on top of some snowy clouds, with smaller stars sprinkled on them.
Several mirrors, each of a different frame, can be seen resting on each platform.
However, one mirror at the middle is missing its glass. It's just a mere frame.
It possesses wings, stars and a crown, but the frame appears to be dull stone.
Lolo and Lala jump out of their stars, and Lolo says, "I'll see you later when we leave."
"Since this is your first time here, let's start somewhere easy." Sectonia tells us.
She then turns around and flies into one of the mirrors, so we follow her.
Once I open my eyes again, I feel silver rays of moonlight reflecting on me.
I look above, at the movement of the leaves and mossy branches out there.
A full moon can be seen beyond the trees, in a sky of a visible bright night.
Quentin asks, "So, Her Majesty. What would be the objective of this adventure?"
"We assume that Dark Mind hides himself in a particular mirror." Sectonia says.
Lala whispers, "In fact, it is a mirror that his henchmen tried to hide²⁵ away from us."
"So, we've been collecting each piece with care and safety." Sectonia adds.
She then flourishes her dual rapiers and swings them at a rope holding a platform.
"This way!" She tells us, as we run and jump while following her lead.
Several creatures come and launch themselves towards us, or even send projectiles.
"Hah!" Lolo says as he launches a white ball which covers a flying blade into an egg.²⁶
Some sort of egg, I think. It looks like it. The blade is fully covered into a white sphere.
We're stopped by the Queen as we face a knight covered in red armor, twice as big as us.
The knight's sword is swung at each one of us, making us jump and roll to the side.
Lolo throws another white ball at the knight, but it doesn't manage to do its job.
Taranza looks around and sticks glowing web strings into the Sir Kibble that attacked us.
His gloves move in intricate ways, as the kibble launches a blade towards the knight.
Sectonia then flies with both of her rapiers up front, and deals a final blow.
We fly up above a vertical cave, with ladders, and leave to see a mansion at the distance.
"That's the Moonlight Mansion."²⁷ Lala says, "One of the shards might be there."
Dark fences surround the building, with a gate that bears the motif of bats.
We head towards the entrance, with me going at the front of the group.

²⁵ See endnote 5: "Infiltration"

²⁶ This is one of Lolo's attacks in his games. Sometimes, the game manuals refer to this as a "Magic shot"

²⁷ Moonlight Mansion is one of the levels in Kirby & The Amazing Mirror.

But then, out of a window high up in the mansion, a golem ambushes me from the front.

"Get off me!" I yell, as the golem grabs me and throws me back away from the mansion.

Emronia grabs me, "Povynn! Are you okay?", she hugs me, and I nod at her.

Then, Taranza sticks his strings of silk into the golem's limbs, keeping him still.

Sectonia nods at the group and beats up the golem with her blades.

Lolo then jumps and hammers down the golem, jumping back with a back flip.

Then Lala does the same, and lets Sectonia deal the final blow with a stab of her blades.

The being of stone then falls over the floor and breaks up into pieces of bricks.

"Okay, let's do this!" Taranza cheers, as we enter the mansion through its wide hall.

4 - Searching for Clues

The mansion is dark, but, colorful in a way. Its wood is purple and wallpapers blue. Dim lit lamps, bookshelves, and even a few grandfather clocks decorate the inside.

We stay close together as we hover across the hall, and reach a big room.

Sectonia stops the group and says, "Since we're looking for clues and a shard...

I suggest splitting up into smaller groups who'll look on each corner."

"I have the suspicion that would get us ambushed easier." Quentin says.

The Queen then says, "Believe in my skills, we have been doing this for a long time.

In case any of you get injured, I will make sure to rescue and heal you.

This is my suggestion, the lakesprits stay together as a group of three.

Lolo and Lala, who are more experienced, stay as a pair together.

And, of course, me and Taranza also stay together as another pair.²⁸

So, the three groups part ways and head into a different area of the building.

The sky darkens, and faint raindrops can be heard striking the roof.

I open a door and walk alongside Quentin and Emronia through a hall.

The three of us walk into a slightly wide hall, with a few couches at the side.

"I wonder what sort of literature is read in here." I say as I look at a bookshelf.

There's books titled "The Art of Wind", and "Introduction to Sword Combat,"

I also stumble upon another one, called "How to become successful through imitation."

That's an interesting taste in literature... Perhaps I might give it a read myself.

I hope the residents don't mind if these books disappear for an hour or two.

On another room, we find three switches²⁹, and some closed walls.

"Okay, if this button activates an alarm, get ready." Quentin whispers above one.

With that button pressed, one wall opens, revealing another similar wall.

"Okay, one of those buttons will probably open the next wall." He whispers.

The next button is pressed, and that wall rises as it reveals a room with entrances.

"I suppose we're in the access control room." Emronia suggests as she looks around.

"Then this one might open something vital." Quentin says regarding the final button.

With the button pressed, one wall descends and blocks one door in the room.

Quentin says, "That's odd, the buttons stay pressed. Why would they be that way?"

Emronia flies towards the recently closed wall and hits it with her fists.

"Come on! Open up!" She says. Then she tries to move it with telekinesis, really hard.

But, the wall remains firm. It's hard as metal, and really heavy too.

After hitting the wall several times, we turn around and see a flock of enemies.

We're being stared by a crowd of waddle doos, bats, and some green³⁰ creatures too.

I shrug at my friends and then summon my weapon in front of everyone.

Then I swing it from one side to the other, pushing aside most of the enemies.

²⁸ See endnote 6: "Two Spiders in the Dark"

²⁹ In the actual game, these are Bomb Blocks.

³⁰ Snooters.

"Run!" I exclaim as the three of us fly away from the scene and pick another exit.
As I run. Someone with a white cubic mask and a white jacket hides beneath a door.

I try to open it, but it remains locked, so we keep fleeing away from the mob.
After flying and knocking over furniture, we find a way that only leads downwards.
There's no other way to go right now. So, we all fly down to wherever it takes us to.

5 - Surprise me

We find ourselves at a big room, stuck not only with the eventual angry crowd...
But also someone really huge, I mean, nearly as big as this room, and made of bricks.

Stuck in the floor, looking as if a tower of a castle were given life.
The top being like the walls of a battlement, his eyes are tall holes with brick brows.

Even having a mustache below that slab of a nose of his.
And at his sides, he had hands of stone, which are like twice as big as us.
I land on the floor and ask, "What is your name, astonishing being of bricks?"

"I am the King Golem, and I'm guarding this mansion." He says to us.
His hands slam on the floor as the room rumbles and debris fall from above.
Not only that, but, the mob that chased us was now jumping into this room.

"You can say... we're demolitionists." I say, and summon my spear.
So, I run towards him, jump into the air, and chisel him away.
The walls of this place have windows of tinted glass, picturing characters on them.

One of these windows appears to be a depiction of the King Golem himself.
Rocks fall into each corner as he hits the ground harder, and as my friends dodge.
Emronia's hands and eyes glow as she grabs a bunch of rocks and sends them at him.

Quentin jumps into the back and blows a tornado of rocks back into the golem.
I realize I got some books with me, so I grab them and launch them at the enemy.

But then, from his mouth, the King spits out a much smaller golem at us.
I myself as I hold my weapon in my hands and swing it at both beings of stone.
Foes fall along with the rocks, ready to hit us, and my friends struggle to keep up.

I jump, my weapon shines as it takes on a form of a hammer,
At the middle of the air, I launch several rocks and foes back at the giant golem.

And then, my weapon goes back to its main form and fly towards him.
But then, from the rain of rocks and pursuers, two known orbs fall into our enemy.

The King Golem crumbles as Lolo and Lala make a heavy fall onto his top.
His hands flat out, fall into the ground. Emronia and Quentin emerge from the debris.

"Uuugh, I can't go on... I don't even know what you want!" The golem says.

I point my spear and say, "If anyone asks who bested you at combat...
Tell them it was us, Povynn, Emronia, and Quentin from the Council of Seven Years!

Now then, if you don't us to pulverize you, tell us about Dark Mind."
He cries, "I swear I don't know anything! I just sit here and relax with my golems!"
Then, Lolo and Lala come from his mouth, holding a cloth with something inside.

"He was hiding one of the mirror shards..." Lolo whispers, "Deep inside him!"

Sectonia and Taranza reach the floor and gasp at the situation.
"Woah, you three were fast. Perhaps you can take on harder missions." Taranza says.

Emronia and Quentin blush and scratch their backs, "Thanks, I guess!"
"Come on, you have to be proud! We've been doing this for months now!" Taranza says.
I tell him, "Well, I'm glad you like what we do. Anything to save friends and the world."

6 - Celestial

That night, after a whole day of work, we all gather at Fine Fields once again.

The seven of us lie on the grass and stare at constellations of many colors. Nights here on Popstar are dark enough to let its inhabitants sleep smoothly.

But it's not too dark either, it's on a sweet spot that lets us see each other.

"So, Emronia. I've been wondering about Roccoamenta." Sentionia says. The Queen asks, "Are there any other lakesprits in there? How are they like?"

"Other lakesprits?" Emronia blushes, "Well, I have something to tell you." Emronia then says, "Me and Quentin haven't been lakesprits our entire lives." She explains, "For almost my entire life, we used to be of a different species.

Me and Quentin, we were both living in Roccoamenta, but not as lakesprits.

But then, around a year ago... I woke up in a different world in this form. It was called Duovantia, and the creatures native to it were called... Pokemon. Turns out Povynn was helping me from an invasion that happened back home.

After several months, I was able to return home and see Quentin again."

The term Pokemon is used for beings that are native to Duovantia, And other worlds that have been created by Arceus, which share species. It's an umbrella term, that encompasses animals, moving plants, ghosts... And it also includes Arceus and the creations of Arceus, like the lakesprits. Quentin adds, "When Emronia came back, Povynn invited us to Duovantia.

And with that, I was granted this form. I've had it for a few weeks now." Sentionia puts her gloves over as her smooth coffee colored face, as she blushes.

"But, Quentin... were you safe in Roccoamenta?" She asks the blue lakesprit.

Quentin smirks, "Let's say I did pretty well, for being the unlucky one."

Above in the sky, I can see blimps with wooden rotors slowly descending. Passengers from other islands seem to be returning back home from the city.

Another airship can be seen flying all the way up with visitors from below.

Sentionia brings some big boxes to us, "Emronia, Quentin... I've got gifts for you." The gifts come in cardboard boxes, with the top folds locking together like a house roof.

On those folds, silk strings make up a bow that wrap around the boxes.

They also got rouge-colored words written on the side, which smell like wine.

Emronia opens her box, and inside finds two bells³¹ of the size of baseball bats.

"These are the Chime Clashers." Sentionia says, "They're both instruments and weapons."

The bells hang from wooden handles, each one with a set of buttons and two knobs.

One of the knobs is for volume, the other one is for tone, just like in electric guitars.

Twelve keys make out a keyboard across one side, and two buttons adjust the octaves.

"Woah, they look cool!" Emronia says, "What do you mean they can be weapons?"

Sentionia laughs, "These bells are really hard, to the point they double as bludgeons."

³¹ The bells were inspired by Kirby's bell ability, which debuted in Kirby: Triple Deluxe.

Quentin then open his box, and finds two black scimitars resembling horns of beetles³².

"Oh, Quentin." Sectonia tells him, "These two are the Beetle Blades."

They do appear like the horn of a rhino beetle, but, they're way sharper.

On their sides, they have golden marks that resemble spiral ornaments and leaves.

"Some of my soldiers tend to wield those." Sectonia says, "They're pretty useful."

After more stargazing, we all went back to our dwellings and slept until the next day.

³² And these blades were inspired by Kirby's beetle ability, which also debuted in Kirby: Triple Deluxe.

Book IV - Motivating the Monarchs

1 - Let's Go Away

It's the next morning, and we're having breakfast at the highest island of Royal Road.

The dining room has a long table, beneath this garden with trees covering the sky.

Taranza serves us plates and drinks. My glass is filled with a colorful soft drink.

"This one is made from a combination of several local fruits." The spider tells me.

Royal chefs served us bowls of rice with tiny cuts of avocado and sauce on top.

Next to them, we have well-baked bread filled with blends of sauces and protein.

On the other side, tiny sliders of burgers with lettuce, spices, and sauces.

They are accompanied by a side of fried potato slices, along with three condiments.

The plates are as white as marble, with ornaments resembling laurel on the side.

It is all laid on top of a long tablecloth with repeating symmetrical leaves.

I ask, "Taranza, does this mean that this blend includes miracle fruit?"

He wags his finger, "It doesn't. Miracle fruits are used to enhance one's skills³³."

Though, we do have plenty in stock, so, if you want, you can ask next time."

The rest of our group, the council, is having either milkshakes or natural juice.

"Something wrong, Your Majesty?" Taranza asks Sectonia, who's shivering.

She tells him, "Oh, I had one of these bad dreams³⁴ again, the ones with mirrors."

"It's going to be okay," Taranza comforts her, "If you desire, you can rest for today."

The spider royal nods at her servant, and tells us, "Then, let us rest for today,

You lakesprites can go wherever you please. Lala and I will be at Wild World.³⁵"

That place that Sectonia mentions is one of the Floralian islands, filled with jungles.

Sectonia asks me, "So, Povynn. Would you tell me, what do you work as?"

"What do I work as?" I say, "I'm a psychologist. I research, write, and do counseling.

As of now, I am employed in a position called Coronetian Guardian³⁶, given by Arceus.

I get to protect places from whatever problems arise, and also research when I can.

It's not only ordinary problems that I get to moderate, but, also bigger threats.

And yes, that means threats just like the one that you've been facing ourselves.

Curiously enough, that position has been vacant for a long time, until I asked for it."

I taste my drink, and it's pretty good. It's fruity, but, with flavors I haven't tried before.

"How about you two, Emronia and Quentin." Queen Sectonia asks.

³³ In Kirby: Triple Deluxe, Kirby enters his "Hypernova" state when he consumes a miracle fruit. When he is in that form, he can suck with a lot more strength. Since sucking is one of Kirby's main abilities, it could be deduced that the miracle fruit enhances someone's main ability, and so, this poem uses that conclusion as a plot point.

³⁴ See endnote 7: "Fear of Spiders"

³⁵ See endnote 8: "Girls' Day Out"

³⁶ The name was inspired by Mount Coronet, which is where the Temple of Sinnoh, or Spear Pillar, is located. Above the temple, there is the Hall of Origin, which is the place where Arceus is located.

"Quentin recently started a doctorate so he can become a surgeon." Emronia says.
She then says, "As for me, I recently led expeditions towards unexplored places."
Sectonia nods, "Yes, I believe that is all wonderful. And I'm glad you're helping us."
"Speaking of expeditions, we could go check King Dedede." Emronia suggests to me.
I respond, "Of course. Last time it was too late. Now it's the perfect time to do it."
So, we finish the dishes³⁷, say our goodbyes, and head towards the edge of the island.
The clouds below this edge are blown softly, covering lakes and mountains.
I nod to Emronia and Quentin, and we all jump off, head down, out of the Kingdom.
The wind hits strong as we dive, the three of us fly in formation as we begin our search.
Our arms open as we slow our fall and glide forward, towards the horizon.
Crossing perfectly round hills topped with grass, below stars of many colors.
Forests covered with roofs of leaves and castles with elegant windows of golden frames.
Our destination lies at a castle of two tiers atop a rocky mountain.

³⁷ See endnote 9: "Let's Throw a Party"

2 - Invitation

We land near the entrance of King Dedede's palace, and head towards it.
He reigns over a country in Popstar that goes by the name of... Dream Land.
I've heard it's peaceful most of the time, and has several plains and forests.
In fact, this land is where Kirby used to live. We can even see his house from up here.
Kirby, the pink puffball, used to live on a white dome shaped house, like an igloo.
But, unlike an igloo, it's made of stone, with a wooden door and a wooden window.
On the side of it, near the top, a chimney can be seen poking out.
Well, hopefully we can get some answers from those who are the closest to him.
Two waddle dees guard with spears, and ask us about our business.
Waddle dees are a very common creature in this planet, especially in Dream Land.
They're like the orb-shaped beings found in Eden Land, but a bit different.
To begin, most of them come in varying shades of orange, with tan faces.
Another difference are their axolotl-like eyes, which are smaller than the orbs' eyes.
Below those eyes, their blushes are orange. Their feet are yellow and bean shaped.
"We're investigating the disappearance of Kirby." Quentin says.
Emronia adds, "Maybe your King could have a clue, since he's very close to the puffball."
The waddle dees whisper to each other, and whisper to another waddle dee in the back.
"Do you bring... any mirrors with you?" One waddle dee asks while inspecting us.
Emronia says, "We don't, last time, my makeup kit was confiscated by Floralian guards."
The waddle dee gasps. Emronia clarifies, "Listen, it wasn't any of those evil mirrors!"
"We want to find Kirby, so he can help us defeat Dark Mind!" I tell them.
The waddle dees shake their heads... or bodies, "That might be impossible." One says.
More waddles come by, and hear our words. Some realize and invite the King.
After some minutes, the King appears. He's huge compared to us, three times our size.
His appearance is like the one of a bird, a penguin, or an eagle, with blue feathers.
He's wearing a red hat with a fuzz ball at the end, and red robes that reach the floor.
A cream colored shirt is inside his robes, and orange gloves on his hands.
With a determined look on his face, he asks, "So, you want to know about Kirby?"
The three of us nod at him, and he says, "To be honest, I haven't seen him in a while.
His house has been uninhabited for long, and he didn't even tell me where he went."
I scratch my head and look at my friends, "Well, where else do we get from here?"
"Your Majesty, what was the last time you saw Kirby?" Quentin asks.
King Dedede says, "The last times I saw him... were some pretty great days.
We would hang out together with the rest of our friends. But then, he just left."
Kirby does have friends, including Dedede, so, any of them could give clues.
"By any chance, Your Majesty, has anyone else gone missing at the same time?" I ask.
After a moment of pondering, he says, "Oh, indeed. It was one of my waddle dees!
He protected this land with his spear, and wore a blue bandana in his head."³⁸

³⁸ This character is known as Bandana Waddle Dee. He's one of the main characters in Kirby games.

So, I ask him, "Is there any way we could contact this waddle dee?"

He pulls a phone and looks over it. Then, he pulls a pocket-sized notepad.

"Well, I do have his work number... but, it's not active at this time." He tells us.

The King then adds, "If anyone has his personal number, I'll tell you about it."

"Thanks." We nod at him, and then walk away as I ask, "So, what should we do next?"

"We could just relax up in Floralia for now," Quentin says, "Or, also..."

"Your Majesty," he then asks, "Would you be interested in finding Dark Mind?"

A group of waddle dees look at King Dedede as he looks into the horizon.

"Is it with the Florialian Queen? I may be able to fly, but I can't fly so high." He says.

After a moment, he adds, "But perhaps there's another way I could get there."

3 - Flightful

We come back to Royal Road, to either tour the island, or resume our research.

Previously I had mentioned the abundance of waddle dees in Dream Land.

Well, some waddle dees prefer to live in Floralia too, despite them being flightless.

Cloud spiders and people of the sky can fly without problems, but what about them?

Apparently they carry parasols so they can let the wind take them wherever they want.

And there's always those airships that fly from one chunk of islands to the other.

We're seeing a few of those waddle dees, as we walk towards the main square.

But then, at the midst of it, we see a giant airship land at one of the docks.

I think I recall seeing it before, it's really long and thin at the front, with a mask there.

To it's sides it has four giant purple bat wings. And it's topped by several cannons.³⁹

The Floraliens look with astonished looks on their faces as they stare. Some run away.

And then, after all the dust settles from the landing, the gates open up.

King Dedede walks out from a staircase, with several waddle dees at his side.

Whispers regarding him are heard, as he bows and poses in front of the citizens.

Behind him, there walks an orb-shaped knight with a mask just like the ship.

He's blue, but, his shade of blue is clearly darker than the one that Lolo has.

On top of his white gloves, he wears shoulder pads, and behind him there's a cape.

Other whispers are heard amongst the crowd. Apparently, his name is Meta Knight.

On the side that leads to the castle, Sectonia flies, and looks over all of us.

"Aaah! Floraliens! Get him!" She commands, as she points at the masked orb.

The three of us lakesprites stick together, as the citizens arm themselves up.

The Floraliens, mostly the adults, pick up spears, rocks, and small guns.

We could even see spiders spinning silk so they could lasso the knight.

"Whoa whoa whoa! What did we do wrong?!" King Dedede holds his hands up.

Meta Knight and his army unleash their weapons and watch each other's backs.

But then, the knight gets covered in several layers of spider webs.

"Sir! We'll get you out immediately!" his crew⁴⁰ exclaim as they attempt to free him.

The knight tries to break away as he unleashes the power of wind from the inside.

Amongst all the Floraliens, the Queen takes off, determined and prepared.

She shows her two scepters, with gems over each one, and lands in front of him.

"Stooooop!" King Dedede yells, and lifts up his hammer, with a victory hand symbol on it.

Sectonia turns her scepters into rapiers, and uses them to cut away the silk.

We hear the sounds of blades clashing together, as we see the two fight.

An explosion flashes, blowing in front of our faces, with dust covering the whole street.

I rub my eyes, and then, I see Meta Knight and Sectonia fencing with each other.

They're arguing with each other, shouting words at each other.

³⁹ That ship is called the Halberd.

⁴⁰ Meta Knight does indeed have a crew that goes with him while he's on his ship. This crew appears in "Revenge of Meta Knight", one of the games that come in Kirby Super Star.

"Queen Sectonia...! You must be mistaken!" the Knight tells her.
The two jump away from each other and stare at each other.
She gasps and covers her mouth, "Oh... no. You're not him!"
Meta Knight nods at her, "I must have notified you before."
"I sincerely apologize!" She blushes and puts her gloves together.
The spider sobs, and turns to the rest of us, "I am really sorry for this!"
The Floralian also apologize back, and sheathe their weapons.
I walk towards Sectonia, and ask her, "Your Majesty? Why did that happen?"
She lets out a breath, "There's a certain enemy that... looks a lot like him."
"Yes, I might have heard about him too..." Meta Knight says, "A lookalike...
I assure you, Your Majesty. Me and my crew will look out for this doppelganger."

4 - Someone Else

It's later in the evening, and I'm walking alone across the streets of Royal Road.
Emronia and Quentin are visiting the University of Floralia, for research.
They told me they're trying to find a cure for those affected by the mirrors.
I look at the giant bridges above the middle layer of the city, and keep walking.
Spider citizens hover back home, waving their hands back at me.
I enter one unexplored area, a park inside the outer parts of the middle floor.
Then, from the sky, a huge robot jumps in front of me, and ambushes me.
It appears to look almost like one of those heavy knights, but, as a mecha.
I jump back, in a somersault, and avoid the swings of its blade.
"Wait!" I look back at the entrance of this place, "They closed down this place?"
Indeed, some fences have been raised and closed just around this park.
So, I ran across the place, but then, the knight grabbed me by my tails.
And I was swung out to the other side, as I heard laughter coming from it.
Its arm turns into a cannon launcher, and sends several rockets at me.
I summon my spear, and stab the rockets as they fly just in front of me.
"Maybe you don't realize this," I say, "But all that noise will alert the others!"
From its back, dozens of missiles jump out and fly towards me.
The smoke from me blowing the missiles covers my sight, and my arms get tired.
"Man... it never seems to end." I say... and then, I miss one target, and that one gets me.
When I open my eyes, and get up, I notice a glowing bolt over the defeated robot.
"Wait... I recognize that... it must be..." I say, and then see one of my friends.
He's a spirit, but not a lakesprit, he's one of those spirits that come from trees.⁴¹
One of those white glowing ones, with big ears. Some of them have fluff.
Above those ears, he has a pair of fluffy antennae, of about the same size as his ears.
His name is Hai, and he's the friend that just saved me from that big knight mecha.
"I'm surprised you came all the way here to Floralia," I tell him.
I see his tail moving, being like the one that cats have, but fluffy and thick at the end.
At the moment, he's wearing a jacket, along with black pants with two pockets.
And below all of that, his sneakers are all red, including the strings and the inside.
He tells me, "I just thought it would be great to help my best friend."
From the scraps of the knight robot, three leepers jump out and run away.
Leepers are one of the species that roam Popstar, but it's rare to see them here.
They then to jump fast, but they also like to sleep. Right now, they're all about jumping.
"So, what brought you here? Did you hear about... any kind of news recently?" I ask.
He says, "Well, I just happened to be here in Popstar, exploring with my team.
I was with Echo and Rex at the time when I heard about you helping the Queen.
My teammates went back home, and I've decided to come here to Floralia."
Echo and Rexford, which Hai calls Rex, are from the world of Duovantia.

⁴¹ The species of spirits found in the Ori series. The species that Ori belongs to.

Echo is an Audino⁴² girl. Audinos are pink and cream, with big ears on their sides. As for Rexford, he is a Scolipede, which is a bug with antennae that take sharp turns.

"Oh, I see!" I get up, and walk alongside him, "So, are you interested in joining us?"

He says, "Yeah, I think you'd need a little bit of help. I want you to be safe."

The fences open, the Floralian guards apologize to us for keeping us there.

I bring Hai to the hotel, and say, "This is the place where we've been sleeping."

He looks at the lobby and gets amazed, "Oh! This looks so cool!"

"We could share a room together, don't you think?" I tell him, and go to the desk.

And so, I reserve a new room, a double room, where both Hai and I will sleep.

Quentin and Emronia will keep their room. However, the third bed will be taken away.

"Well, that was a lot of paperwork," I tell Hai, "I'm gonna take a breather now."

So, I leave the hotel for a moment, before I move my things to the new room.

⁴² Audino (and Scolipede) are species from the Pokemon games.

5 - Breather

Just when I leave the building, I notice something familiar, almost like a déjà vu.
I see the same masked figure, the one with a cubic helmet, hovering over the street.
Back when I was being chased at the mansion, I recall seeing him for some seconds.

Because of my curiosity, I come closer, but then, he jumps in fear and runs away.

I jump and fly, chasing him across the streets of Royal Road, with all its turns.

Floralians scream as he runs over the tables of a cafe, which he turns over.

He then picks up a pot and throws it right towards my face. I got lucky and dodged it.

Then, from a ledge, he looks back at me and jumps away from the island.

I stop right there. I am the lakesprite of perception, so, I'm gonna use one of my powers.

I make myself invisible, not only my body hid itself away, but my clothes as well.

And so, I jump away, as I'm seen by no one at all, and keep chasing him.

He takes a dive below, like a seagull, and so, I myself fly towards the lower islands.

The masked figure then hovers above the third island chunk of this airpielago.

It's called... Old Odyssey, and it has both a hot desert, and high snowy mountains.

He makes out the shape of a sine wave as he flies between the mountains.

Then, he slows down and enters a wooden lodge of the size of a McMansion.

The house is coated in snow, has a cozy balcony, and large windows by two sides.

It's founded on top of stone, and a sign on top of the door reads, "Roundkick Lodge."⁴³

I let a breath out as I stand in front of there, and get ready for whatever situation.

⁴³ There is a lodge in real life called Roundhouse Lodge. It's located in Whistler, British Columbia.

6 - Sky Lodge

No one can see me yet, not even the breaths I let out here in this cold weather.
"You should know that was the beta version." A soft voice was heard through the door.
Another voice said, "What?! Beta?! I'm not beta at all, that isn't meant for me!"
"Well, at least we got the money from that gig... that should be enough for now."
I roll my eyes, and make myself visible. A bell rings as I enter the lodge.
It's a warm cozy lodge, with buffet on the second floor, and couches on the first floor.
This house's ceiling and walls are almost completely made out of wood.
However, there's a nice view of the mountains and of Popstar through the windows.
Right in front of me, I see the masked figure, with his white jacket and boots.
He looks like a *teru teru bouzu*, one of these white dolls made for the rain.
A long, white cloak, with several belts by the middle of his chest.
Most likely a way to close that cloak. Makes him look like a rock star⁴⁴ or a soldier.
Inside that cloak, there seems to be a big white jacket extending to his boots.
And above the cloak, there's an scarf bigger and puffier than mine, torn at the ends.
But, the most interesting thing, is the cube-shaped helmet that covers his entire head.
It completely leaves his head to mystery. Instead, the helmet only bears a single eye.
"Just act natural." He tells himself, and keeps talking to the other guests.
The lodge is mostly populated by beings native to Popstar, however, there are exceptions.
A *Snivy*⁴⁵, a snake-like being foreign to Popstar, sits to the right of the masked one's seat.
This bipedal species tend to be green on the top, and tan on the bottom.
"So, *Neblino*, what is there to come?" The *Snivy* asks. He wears a big jacket and sneakers.
His eyes glimmer, as he makes up a smug smile and pulls a phone out of a pocket.
Neblino, the masked figure, chuckles, "Well, let's just relax for the time being."
The *Snivy*'s sneakers are like boots, with fluff inside. His jacket has fluff inside as well.
"I've been designing some new uniforms." The *Snivy* says and pulled out a note.
Neblino nods in approval, "That looks very nice. I love that color palette."
"Though, keep in mind..." He says and whispers a few words to the *Snivy*.
On the stool to the right of the *Snivy*, an *Emolga*⁴⁶ sits and types onto a computer.
Emolgas are also foreign to this planet, they're similar to flying squirrels.
However, one great difference is the fact that they can release electricity.
Yes, they can indeed turn their own energy in their cheeks and send it like an eel.
Usually, they're dark gray on the tail, backs, and back of the wings, head and ears.
Both of their ears and their head are round, and white on the front, with a bit of yellow.
Their short arms, bean shaped feet, and pear shaped bodies are white like the snow.
And, as for the front of the wings, it's yellow, just like the cheeks on their faces.
The *Emolga* at the computer looks so focused on typing. But I can't see his screen.

⁴⁴ Freddie Mercury's yellow jacket.

⁴⁵ *Snivy* is a species that appears in the Pokemon games.

⁴⁶ *Emolga* is another species that originates from the Pokemon games.

I take the stool at the left of Neblino, and say, "So, you're Neblino, right?"
 He chuckles a bit, and says, "Yes, that is my name. What brings you to my place?"
 "I think I saw you yesterday... In the Mirror World." I tell him.
 Neblino says "Oh yeah... I think I was... handing out leaflets for this business!"
 "Yes, we run a ski resort. I, Kinsello, take care of its looks." The Snivy says.
 The Emolga takes a break to say, "I'm Crettu, and I'm the team's technology expert."
 A group of batamon, beings similar to Kirby, come and leave cake on the table.
 "Would you mind some freshly baked cake?" Neblino shows me the variety of slices.
 I decline. Neblino then whispers to the group of batamon, which then walks away.
 "I think my friends told me... that someone was stealing cakes around here." I say.
 "Wait, really?" Neblino says. "That sounds dangerous. Especially in this planet.
 There's an urban legend that says that Kirby kills gods if he gets his cake stolen."⁴⁷
 Basically beings like Dark Matter, Zero, or Dark Mind. You know, that kind!
 Though, if these gods fall, then people will start believing in other things instead."
 I chuckle, "Well, I don't think there's a sane person that worships these as gods."
 One waddle doo hands him a case, as gentle pensive music starts playing.
 A straight soprano sax, not a curved one, is taken out of the case and held by Neblino.
 "Did you know I'm great at the sax?" He says and begins playing smooth jaunty music.
 It's getting pretty late. I close my eyes as I let a breath out and say, "Pretty music."⁴⁸
 The smooth jaunty music continues as I wonder if I'll wake up later to go home.
 But, maybe, this will do, maybe a little nap will be enough before I get up.
 So, I let myself relax to the melody Neblino plays and to the feel of this lodge.

⁴⁷ In Kirby: Squeak Squad, Kirby gets his cake stolen at the start of the game. At the end of the game, Kirby fights Dark Nebula, who is yet another enemy that resembles Dark Matter.

⁴⁸ In the music video for Kenny G's "Songbird", the subtitles start with (gentle pensive music), Kenny then plays a soprano sax, just like Neblino. When he plays, the subtitle (smooth jaunty music) is displayed. The same song then appears in the movie Cars, when street racing cars play that music to Mack (a Mack truck), who also gets sleepy and says this exact line.

Book V - Entwined Feathers

1 - New Mission

"Povynn..." Someone tells me... "Povynn. Are you okay?" I hear as I wake up.

I'm now back at the hotel. I have no idea how I got back up here.

The morning sunlight has arrived once again, and I see Hai's face in front of me.

"Good morning, Hai... I'm doing fine." I tell him, as I get up and see our new bedroom.

Apparently, last night, Hai, Emronia and Quentin found me sleeping at the lodge.

After several calls, they arrived to a sight of me lying on the floor.

The guests were leaving, but, some appeared to flee when the three arrived.

I was picked up and brought back to this hotel, and placed on my new bed.

I check my pockets. At least nothing is missing. Maybe this should be a wake up call.

"So, Povynn. Last night I joined the council of the seven years." Hai tells me.

He's wearing another hoodie jacket now, a navy blue with an image of Ori on it.⁴⁹

Ori is of the same species as Hai, and was born from a giant tree in the forest of Nibel.

This spirit, Ori, went into a journey to restore the forest from its decay.

Hai says to me, "We've also planned to go on another expedition today."

"Oh, that's kinda cool! I'm up for that adventure." I tell him, and prepare my stuff.

It might be a bit more challenging, but, that's reasonable, for a few reasons.

After the last adventure, the Queen now knows about our potential.

And since we have more members now, we're stronger together.

I take a warm shower to refresh myself, and get into a new set of clothes.

After leaving the hotel, me and the other lakesprites lead Hai toward the edge.

But then, I notice he's shivering a bit, and I ask, "Is something wrong, Hai?"

"Well..." He retreats and takes some steps back, "I'm afraid of heights."

I extend my hands and say, "Hai, you can be safe with us. Allow me to carry you."

He comes near me, and lets me give him a hug. The two of us are now tight together.

With that, we take off into the sky to meet the rest of our team.

Not only Hai joined the council. King Dedede is with us here as well.

He holds onto a warp star to fly alongside us, just like Lolo and Lala do.

So, we all put on our skydiving goggles, and dive towards the mirror.

We find ourselves in that cloudy arena, with the other mirror portals once again.

"This way!" Sectonia says as she leaps into a space-themed portal in the higher floor.

⁴⁹ This jacket does exist in real life. Fangamer sold it as the "Forest Guardian Hoodie".

2 - Towards the Stars

We arrive at an area⁵⁰ that appears to be higher than Floralia itself.
Me and my group stand in what seems to be a space station, or teal and golden colors.
There's tubes going between the platforms, along with the nuts and bolts.
Far away, there's a sky showing the light of the atmosphere and nebulae above.
We run across halls that resemble submarine or spaceship corridors.
"This time, let's all stay together," Lolo says, "So we don't get attacked one by one."
So we all jump across platforms, while dodging the beams of waddle doos.
We also jump over some spiky orb beings, like sea urchins, called gordos.
"So, Povynn. Would you tell me about that weapon you use?" Sectionia asks me.
I look at my spear-like tool, the one that I was given as part of my position.
I explain, "This is the Coronetian Aiow. It stands for All In One Weapon.
By default..." I extend my arm and show its length, "It takes on the shape of a spear.
That is because it is designed after the pillars of the temple dedicated to Arceus."⁵¹
A group of flamers, some kind of spinning beings with single eyes, run towards us.
According to what Taranza told me, they like to run across floors, walls, and ceilings.
I make my Aiow take on the shape of a hammer, and knock the group away.
"This is why it's called like that." I tell Sectionia, "It can take on different shapes."
I turn it back into a spear, and look back at King Dedede, who also wields a hammer.
"Oh!" I blush and giggle, "I didn't know you were a fan of mallets too!"
The King of Dreamland nods at me, "Yeah, it gets the job done."
"Well, if we're gonna use home improvement tools..." I say as my weapon shines.
"Then... How about this!" I show the Aiow in the shape of a power saw.
Unlike a normal saw, the Aiow takes energy from me rather than from electricity.
It's like doing cardio, the energy is pulled off out the macro nutrients I consume.
And so, I break through some walls as I cut through them with my weapon.
At a ledge, Lolo and Lala grab themselves into Taranza and Sectionia to fly together.
Dedede himself takes a breath in, and flaps in the air, following the others.
I extend my hands towards Hai, so he can grab onto me while I fly.
And so, we take some shortcuts away from the more risky parts of this area.
Then, after landing on another platform, we see a path made out of fragile blocks.
Waddle doos and gordos guard the area, and Taranza makes his gloves glow.
With his strings, he puppeteers the waddle doos into a corner, and covers it with silk.
He then let us cross the clear path, as we carefully walk and climb towards a warp star.
Lolo and Lala take the star, and the rest of us follow the trail upwards.
Then, at our destination, we encounter... a giant floating glove.
"That... is Master Hand!" Lolo whispers to us, as the glove approaches us.
The giant hand utters a malevolent laugh. "Who are you laughing at?!" Lolo says.

⁵⁰ Candy Constellation, from Kirby & The Amazing Mirror.

⁵¹ The Spear Pillar Temple.

The hand then points with two fingers at Lolo... and the rest of us.
 From those fingers, golden bullets come, and they come really fast.
 Taranza grabs me as he saves me from the attack. "Now drop me above the hand." I say.
 And so, he launches me towards the hand, and with my weapon, I stab the glove.
 But then, I get grabbed, and I'm thrown back to the rest of the group.
 "Hee-yah!" Emronia flies down and strikes the fingers of the hand with her bells.
 At the same time, Quentin pokes with his Beetle Blades, "Hope you can get a new glove."
 Sectonia then sticks strings of silk on some gordos, and swings them at Master Hand.
 The glove then flies away as we try to chase him, and then it disappears out in the air.
 There's a path full of enemies and mazes ahead, "I'll clear the way." Taranza tells us.
 "I can do that too!" Hai says, as he loads glowing bolts into his crossbow.
 And so, we follow their lead, as they go from one side to the other, and then upwards.
 Finally, at the highest part of the space station, we cross the portal above the sky.
 Not only we see Master Hand approach us, but, we also saw another hand come to us.
 "And that one... is Crazy Hand!" Lolo whispers to us. Quentin blushes.
 Sectonia turns to the group and says, "Remember, one by one!"
 So, we all get close, and run in formation, with the Floralian Queen leading the way.
 Master Hand flies higher as Crazy Hand chases us, and tries to punch the floor.
 "Grab on me!" Taranza tells Lolo as he grabs him. I look at Lala and let her grab me.
 So the two of us fly towards Master hand, and Lala then jumps towards him.
 She grabs a hammer⁵² and then spins it around the glove, chipping it away.
 "Now get back to me!" I tell Lala as she grabs me again, and I dive into the floor.
 The council gets apart as I place the point of my spear on the point, and land safely.
 Then, we keep running together, but then, the ones behind get smashed by the hands.
 Both gloves got together and clapped us together, leaving Lolo and Taranza unharmed.
 As the back-to-back attack ends, we walk away dizzy, trying to get our senses back.
 We now all run to each corner, even trying to hide from the wrath of the hands.
 Sectonia, who fled away with Lala, grabs a brown bottle with yellow cap out of her cloak.
 "I feel better already." The Queen of Floralia says after drinking the whole bottle.⁵³
 Taranza flies by and hands out bottles to the rest of us, and then flies into the distance.
 Master Hand looks distracted, I'm gonna run as the others follow me.
 So, I ran as fast as I can, with my weapon in my back, and jump towards him.
 But then, I get slapped with the entire force of the back of Crazy Hand.
 "Wooaaaaooh!"⁵⁴ I scream out as I get flung far away⁵⁵ from the arena.

⁵² It's possible to use a hammer power-up in the Adventures of Lolo series.

⁵³ This kind of bottle is referred to as an "Energy drink" in the instruction manuals of some Kirby games. They do appear in the Kirby games as a source of health points.

⁵⁴ The Super Mario 64 falling scream.

⁵⁵ See endnote 10: "Distant Destination"

3 - We Meet Again

Platforms and clouds with gordos and waddle doos pass by as I fall.
Foleys and bronto burts⁵⁶ fly on the distance as I'm thrown away from the constellation.

The sky lights up as I come closer to the surface, and the clouds fly to the sky.
Then, I softly land... on a floor of clouds?⁵⁷ They were like cotton candy, but not sticky.

I open my eyes, and see the trio of Neblino, Kinsello, and Crettu looking back at me.
Neblino is wearing... what he's been always wearing, those white clothes and helmet.

I look at Crettu, the Emolga. His big light blue hoodie nearly reaches the ground.
And Kinsello, well... that Snivy who I saw last night, and who likes fashion a lot...

He's showing himself off with a new fit. A tight hiking outfit with two scarfs.

"Well, well. Look what the cat dragged in!" Neblino chuckles, as I get up again.
Crettu tells him, "Neblino... be careful. You should treat your guests with respect."
Neblino laughs a bit, "Well, look at this guy, he just got knocked off from the sky."

The two then walk away for a bit, and Kinsello takes out a magazine.

"In other news, I got the latest issue of the Ikemen's Monthly.⁵⁸" Kinsello says.

Neblino says, "Oh, is there something that may enhance my own style?"

"I have yet to find it. So far I've been enjoying this interview they had with this actor."

I then ask Neblino, "That mask. Do you actually have one eye? Like a waddle doo?"

He looks back at me, and then flies away from me, while his mates run after him.

"Maybe I shouldn't have used that as an example." I say as I find my way.

Eventually, I find a warp star, just in the open. This could take me back.

"Okay, you saw Lolo and Lala do it. Surely you can do it." I tell myself.

So, I grab the warp star, and it lifts off. I try tilting, but, I end up spinning over the star.

Then, I hug the star as it flies far away, into places further away from my group.

I try my best to dodge the people I almost run over, and then... I finally fly upwards.

Then, at the height where the nebulae decorate the sky, I turn towards my group.

I see the two hands, and the rest of the council taking turns to attack them.

"Make way!" I exclaim as I jump out of the star and let it fly towards the hands.

And so, the warp star that I used to travel crashed into Master Hand, finishing him off.

Meanwhile, Sectonia charges her blades at Crazy Hand and defeats him as well.

"Nooo, Povynn! You stole my frag!" Lolo cries, and then calmly says, "It's alright."

Sectonia then points her weapons at the hands, "Now tell me about Dark Mind!"

Lala looks inside of the gloves, finding a mirror shard, and then covers it in cloth.

"Amazing!" Lala says, "This might be... the last shard we possibly need!"

"If that is true, then we could fight Dark Mind in a pair of days!" Sectonia says.

"That's surprising." I tell her, "I didn't even think it would come that soon."

⁵⁶ Both Foleys and Bronto Burts are flying enemies from the Kirby series.

⁵⁷ The introduction level from Kirby & The Amazing Mirror.

⁵⁸ It's a parody of the GQ (Gentlemen's Quarterly) magazine. The term Ikemen is used in Japan to describe beautiful men.

"Well, I wish for it to be over as soon as possible." She says, "Peace should come soon!"

4 - Hot Evening

I heard from the spiders that King Dedede decided to stay at an inn in Old Odyssey.

This is the chunk of islands that I visited last evening... when I chased Neblino.

Now, the boys: Me, Hai, Quentin, Lolo and Taranza, are walking through its desert.

On the distance, we can see smaller islands flying alongside this one.

As for the path we walk, there are purple and red flowers on its sides.

"You guys know that I play music, right?"⁵⁹ Lolo asks as we walk, "I got a cool idea."

He says, "After all of this, I can host a concert that features me and other musicians!

I'm thinking of calling it... Lolopalooza!"⁶⁰ Though, there is one caveat.

My own band, that will play at the show, doesn't have a drummer as of now.

So, if any of you know someone who can learn and play for us, you can tell me."

Hai then tells him, "Oh, I can play the drums if you need someone."

"Fantastic! I'll later send you our set list, so you can practice our songs!" Lolo says.

A town⁶¹ can be seen sitting atop plains as we see it from the top of a hill.

"That's where the inn is, let's see how Dedede's doing!" Lolo tells us.

After taking some nice views at the scenery of this place, we reach the place.

The buildings here are mostly made out of blends of stones, with colorful mosaics.

Some walls have wooden beam windows, which catch some extra sunlight.

Other buildings are yurt-like domes, mostly made of wooden panels.

"Not many people know about this town," Taranza tells us.

He then says, "Tourists tend to be more attracted towards Royal Road."

We arrive at the inn, and Taranza asks if King Dedede is lodging there.

And, he indeed is! But, Right now he's taking a stroll across town.

So, we keep walking around the town, trying to find him, just because we're curious.

I then notice that guy again, Neblino! He seems to be talking to a leeper.⁶²

Yes, that's the same kind of creature that jumped out of that mecha yesterday.

These tend to mostly live in the land of King Mayon. So, Lolo told us to take caution.

"I bet Florarians won't trust Kirby at all!" Neblino says, "If all of that is true!"

The two don't seem to notice us. They seem to be distracted talking to each other.

The leeper says, "Mhm, I heard that Kirby helped a certain jester become super strong!"⁶³

I also heard that he's an animal abuser, since he harmed a bird mother.⁶⁴

"Hey.... Povynn, there he is!" Quentin whispers to me, and I look to the other side.

And there's the King of Dreamland, he's with two waddle dee bodyguards.

"Nice to see you again, King Dedede." I say as I shake his glove.

"It was a bit tough getting here, but, we did it." He says, "Anyways, what are you up to?"

⁵⁹ Lolo can play music, according to the Adventures of Lolo game that was released on the Game Boy.

⁶⁰ It's a pun on the Lollapalooza music festival.

⁶¹ This town is an original creation of this poem.

⁶² One of the enemies in the Adventures of Lolo series.

⁶³ The story of Milky Way Wishes, in Kirby Super Star.

⁶⁴ Dyna Blade, in Kirby Super Star.

Taranza then says, "Well, I think we're basically ready to fight Dark Mind."
 Dedede feels astonished, "Wait, really?!", his eyes are wide open.
 "Oh, no, not right now! It will be after tomorrow. Remember?" Taranza clears up.
 Dedede clears off the sweat, and walks alongside us, "Phew! You almost got me."
 We then find Neblino and the leeper, who look at us surprised.
 "So, Neblino. Is it true that Kirby freed Nightmare and helped a jester?" I ask him.
 "The name of the jester might be Marx, by the way." Lolo whispers on my side.
 Neblino nods to me while folding his arms, "Yup, that's what people told me!"
 "King Dedede, you know Kirby better, do you think all of that is true?" I ask.
 The bird ponders and then points out, "Actually, no."⁶⁵ And I can tell you why.
 After Kirby stopped me from hoarding the food from the land around me⁶⁶ ...
 I went on a quest, myself, to defeat a dark wizard called Nightmare!
 People say that Kirby didn't know better and just freed him away!
 But, what really happened is that me, along with Meta Knight, fought Nightmare.
 We were the ones who gathered the star rod and beat him up that night!"
 Neblino then looked around, and pointed at one of the two moons in the sky.
 "That moon right there, has a hole, I heard it was from the fight, right?" He asks.
 "You are right about that," Dedede says, "After the first strikes, Kirby came to help.
 He did not free Nightmare, he assisted us in trying to defeat him.
 Then, at the moon, he got him almost done, and then, I dealt the final blow!
 And that's when that part of the moon blew up! Kirby had to rescue me back!"⁶⁷
 Neblino then says, "But, how about that time Kirby helped a jester?"
 "I can answer that," Lolo says, "Is the name of the jester Marx, right?"
 Neblino nods, "Yeah, I think he became really powerful after Kirby helped him."
 Lolo then explains, "Okay, so here's what happened... it wasn't Kirby who did it.
 One day, me and Lala saw the sun and one moon of Popstar fighting each other.
 So, Marx approached us and suggested that we could ask the Galactic Nova to stop it.
 Nova is a gigantic space structure, that could make wishes come true.
 We had to gather stars to give Nova power to wake up and grant that wish.
 Once we gathered all we needed, we woke Nova up, so it could solve the problem.
 But, just when it was about to happen, Marx pushed us aside!

⁶⁵ This poem intentionally deviates from Kirby canon in some aspects. The intention of the Kirby plot in the poem is to discuss the subtext and consequences of how Kirby has been written during each game, and the different perceptions that fans have on Kirby (For example: Kirby either being the embodiment of friendship, or Kirby going on a rampage after getting his cake stolen)
 The discussion of Kirby's character is also taken to a narrative level, since those who try to smear Kirby's reputation have... certain ulterior motives in the story.
 I know it's silly. I know it's polemic. But, this is the culmination of years of discussion regarding the pink puffball.

⁶⁶ Kirby's Dream Land is still canon in this poem.

⁶⁷ A different take on the story of Kirby's Adventure, this definitely deviates from the canon of the games.

And then, he asked to have control over Popstar!

That's when the two of us had to enter Nova and somehow turn it off!

When we came back out of it, the two of us grabbed hammers and beat up Marx!

And, at the final blow, I launched Marx into space, right into the Galactic Nova.

That was with the intent of making guys like Marx not do such things again.⁶⁸

At the end, the sun and that moon just calmed down when we returned to Popstar!"

Neblino and the leeper shake with anxiety and remain silent.

"Well, if you're strong enough to take on Nightmare and Marx..." Neblino says.

"Then, let's have a dual duel between us and you two!" He tells Lolo and Dedede.

The leeper jumps in fear and then runs away from the scene.

"He... he'll come back, I swear!" Neblino exclaims, and faces the two.

The cubic masked guy, Neblino, extends a scythe out of his white jacket.

Lolo leaps with a somersault to the back and holds some white spheres.

Meanwhile, King Dedede pulls out his wooden hammer, and holds it by his back.

Neblino swings his scythe from one side to the other, as fast as the swing of a bat.

Dedede and Lolo jump away, as Dedede keeps holding his mallet tight.

Then, the barrel of Dedede's hammer catches fire, and he swings it at Neblino.

Neblino jumps a somersault, but then rolls of the ground after his clothes catch fire.

He then extends his hands as he shoots circles of pink light into the bird King.

Dedede feels his eyes closes, and his head moves from one side to the other.

He tries to run as he holds his hammer, but, he barely can move in a straight line.

Neblino chuckles as he send the effect towards Lolo as well.

But then... one of Hai's bolts nearly hits Neblino's helmet, and it scares him.

This time, it wasn't a glowing bolt, but an actual silver crossbow bolt.

Neblino immediately turns in fear and runs away from the fight, "Cheaters!" He yells.

"Are you two okay?" I ask to Lolo and Dedede as I see the two lying on the floor.

Dedede shakes the dirt off his head, gets up, and shakes himself off, like a penguin.

"Yeah... I'm doing fine." Dedede says, and then looks at Lolo getting up as well.

"That felt... like I took a sweet night's sleep." Lolo told us, "...The nap, not the fight!"

I ask Hai, "Wait, you weren't using your bolts of light. Why did you use a real one now?"

"That bolt is deadlier than the light ones." He says, "But I only carry a limited amount.

While I'm able to create bolts of light on my own, I can't do that with feathered bolts."

After hanging out for a bit, we found the same leeper from last time.

King Dedede just grabs him and asks, "Okay, where did you hear that about Kirby?"

"I...I just got on Floralia! I swear that's what I heard people say!" The leeper says.

Dedede then ask, "But, what kind of people did you hang out with?"

The leeper then tries to wiggle out from Dedede's hand, and sweats a lot.

Dedede asks, "Were they, by any chance, from the land of King Mayon?"

"Please, let me go! I'll tell you." He responds, "It was them and the ski lodge guys."

⁶⁸ In this poem, the story of Milky Way Wishes deviates from HAL's version by having Lolo and Lala as the protagonists.

And so, the King of Dreamland leaves the leeper on the floor, and lets him go.
Lolo covers his fist, "That's it! King Mayon could be giving Kirby bad publicity!"

"So, do you want me to go with you?" King Dedede asks Lolo.

Lolo shakes his head, "Oh, you don't have to. I'll bring Lala with me."

"Hey, Povynn, weren't you at a ski lodge last night?" Hai asks me.

I nod at him, "Yup, and Neblino told me he's the one who runs it."

"I will make sure to tell Sectonia about it." Hai tells me.

Taranza chuckles, "Surely I could help on her... business inspection."

"Okay, so we got a plan." Hai tells us, "Lolo and Lala deal with King Mayon..."

The spiders deal with Neblino and the rest of his clique...

And the rest of us will continue the search for Kirby!"

5 - Giving the Bird

After that fight, we went to a pub so we could relax and reward ourselves. We'll leave our tasks for tomorrow, and just get to know each other better. I sit next to Dedede, while Lolo sits on his other side. Hai also sits next to me. As for what I ordered, it was a burger with avocado, with a glass of soda. "You know, this Neblino dude... He reminds me of a game I played." I say. I tell him the plot of the game, "In this game, there was a floating island. Some creatures that resembled bunnies, called Mimigas, lived in there. They had a diet of flowers, but there was one kind, a red one, that turned them rabid. And so, an evil human doctor thought of creating an army of rabid mimiga. To assist in his plan, he obtained a helmet or crown with a single eye on it. There was something particular about this helmet... It could control two individuals. The reason behind it being that a curse was placed on those two when it was made." I then tell him more and more of what happened on that fictional flying island. Dedede comments, "What a story."⁶⁹ Imagine if a human could control pokemon." "Oh no, that would be horrible!" I say, "I'm thankful that's not a real thing." I taste my glass of soda and feel the cherry taste of my drink. Very crispy. "You know," I tell Dedede, "I figured out something about these Kirby tales. When people picture him as a kid, they picture him having the instincts of a child. That reminds me of a theory that a psychotherapist had about our lifetimes. He said that our urges, wild thoughts and instincts emerge first in our lives. And then, as we grow up, we develop the rational part of our minds. Imagine this, picture yourself riding a horse⁷⁰ through the desert. Your horse represents your instincts, for example, wanting to sleep and eat a lot." Dedede says, "I'll never beat the binge eating accusations." I tell him, "Okay, now imagine that you, as the rider, are your rationality. You're basically trying to reach your destination, which symbolizes wise decisions." Dedede says, "Oh, so you mean things like protecting the waddle dees?" "Yes, yes, exactly." I say, "Good things that benefit you and Popstar in the long run. And you're doing it while trying to maintain your horse entertained and well fed. Now then. I wonder how this analogy would be for Kirby and his own horse. Could it be that the rider is the mighty one, or the horse? Could it be both?" I find it fun to chat with him. I don't regret inviting him to join the council. "Oh, I have a question." Quentin asks Dedede, "Regarding two of you, Dedede and Lolo. I heard that when you hoarded a lot of food, Lolo and Lala gave you a hand."

⁶⁹ The name of the story is... Cave Story.

⁷⁰ Now this is a reference to the paper "The Ego and the Id" by Sigmund Freud. There's an analogy where the Id is compared to a horse, and the Ego is compared to a rider. A similar analogy was thought in Plato's Phaedrus, where a man in a chariot drives two horses. The chariot represents reason, one of the horses is boldness, and the other horse symbolizes instincts.

Lolo sighs, "Here we go again..." He mutters, and says, "No, it wasn't us."
"While it is true that I stole a lot of food." Dedede says, "Lolo and Lala didn't help me."
"You're talking about are Lololo and Lalala, who are very similar to us." Lolo explains.
Dedede adds, "In fact, after that whole fraud, Lolo was often mistaken for Lololo.
He had to make a whole public announcement trying to explain he wasn't him."
Afterwards, I left with Hai and Quentin, and went back to the Palazzo DePulvino Hotel.

Book VI - Taking Names

1 - Interplanetary Calls

I stretch my arms in my bed, and look at Hai, who's already preparing for today.
Sectonia had previously said that tomorrow will be the Dark Mind fight.
Because of that, this day is meant to be for resting, and for preparing.
And well, you know what that means... we're gonna keep looking for Kirby.
After me and Hai leave the bedroom, we see Quentin and Emronia at the buffet.
The hotel gives a free breakfast each day. This day, I served myself some waffles.
Then, when the four of us leave the hotel, King Dedede and Meta Knight run towards us.
"Povynn, Hai, Emronia, Quentin... I got good news for you four." Dedede tells us.
The waddle dee with the phone navigates through the menus and finds it.
King Dedede receives the phone, and listens to the dial sound.
It keeps going and going, as I tap my foot and look at Dedede closely.
"Hello?" King Dedede says, a voice with some static is heard through the phone.
"It is me, the King of Dreamland!" He says through the phone, "Got it..."
"I wonder... where are you right now?" He asks, and repeats the question over and over.
"Planet... something?" He asks, trying to figure out between all the muddled sounds.
The King cheers up and then says, "Got it now! Thanks a lot!", he later ends the call.
We're told that Bandana waddle dee and Kirby are at a planet outside this star system.
Meta Knight gives us maps, and we all head towards the dock.
Apart from Meta Knight's ship, there are also four warp stars stationed there.
"I... I haven't piloted one of those before." Emronia says.
Meta Knight then tells her, "Oh, it's simple, I can teach you if you want."
After a simple lesson from the knight, we left Popstar while on top of warp stars!

2 - Star Travel

In our travels, we're finding planets of different colors and biomes.
They all look interesting, we might even want to go to one of those someday!
We leave the star system that Popstar is part of, and keep going forward.
We make our way below and above the nebulae, and between asteroids.
Then, as we reach another star system, we find a green planet full of life.
As we get close we see it's blue oceans, and high mountains.
The planet seems to have a forest that nearly spans its entirety
There are a lot of pine-like trees, and also giant bonsai trees.
Some trees are nearly hill-sized, standing out from the rest.
We look at our maps and head towards a part of the forest.
As we slow down, we find a really calm lake, with no buildings next to it.
Then, we spot an RV with a portable table next to it, and two figures sitting by.
A pink puffball, and a waddle dee with a blue bandana on top of his head.
Yes, that's definitely them! After searching on every corner, we found Kirby.
He holds an octuple-stacker sandwich with lettuce, slices of meat, cheese, and more.
His mouth opens wide open and devours the whole thing in a single bite.
Our stars create ripples over the water as we slow down and reach the shore.
We step out and slowly approach the two Dreamlanders.
"Hello? Are you... Kirby?" I ask the puffball, who nods at me in response.
"King Dedede brought us here, and we promise we'll be good." Hai tells the two.
Bandana Waddle Dee, who I will call Bandee, nods and says, "Cool, you can sit with us!"
"Thanks for welcoming us," Quentin says, "I must say, this is such a pleasant forest."
Bandee nods, "It's perfect for relaxing and taking a breather."
At the table lunch, we have a fun talk, and tell the two about lakesprits, and Arceus.
We also learn more about Kirby's life. Turns out he's quite peaceful and caring.
Stones skip as we throw them across the lake and talk to each other.
"Kirby indeed looks after the happiness of his friends." Bandee tells us.
He adds, "If someone ever says that he goes on a rampage over a cake,⁷¹ it's not true."
We walk into the inside of the RV, which looks clean, with a kitchen, and two beds.
There's a cozy hall between the kitchen and the bedroom, with wood-textured tiles.
The couches which sit by the walls are comfy and fancy as those of an airport lounge.
Above there's drawers that hold several items, let it be game boards or tools.
"This looks beautiful! Where did you buy all of this?" Emronia asks.
Kirby whispers to Bandee, who later says, "Oh, the two of us built it together!"
The pink puffball then drives the vehicle, and heads in a tour across the forest.
Bandee relaxes on the couch as we sit alongside him, and talk about our adventures.
"You four sure are some brave adventurers!" Bandee giggles, "We're like that too!"
There's even video games and television in here, so we played for a bit.

⁷¹ That is basically the plot of Kirby: Squeak Squad.

After a return to the lake, we all take a walk by the shore.

"So, here's the question that we all wanted to hear..." Quentin asks Bandee and Kirby.

Quentin asks, "We want to know why you two took a vacation out of Popstar."

Kirby once again whispers to Bandee, who nods at him and whispers back to him.

"Basically... we wanted to take a break until a new threat emerges." Bandee says.

He then tells us, "After several adventures where Kirby defeated different evildoers, People were eager to ask Kirby for any request, knowing of his power.

Though, the problem was, that many of these wishes contradicted each other.

Those who lived in the land of Egger wanted Kirby to harm Floraliens and Edenlanders.

While those on Eden Land and Floralia wanted Kirby to end King Mayon's reign.

I'm aware that those two wishes vary in how good they are, but this is just an example.

Kirby appears to be the hero of everyone, but, many people have different ideals.

People started debating on what made Kirby good or evil, and it got really ugly!

So, Kirby and I took a trip towards this planet to make people chill out.

And if any kind of unanimously evil enemy like Zero emerges, Kirby will return."

I wonder how such dilemmas can be solved. I recall one of my beliefs.

That is, that avoiding dilemmas can be better at the end, as we try to benefit everyone.

The problems of a zero sum game can be avoided by just avoiding the game itself.

Though, if the avoidance is worse, then, we'd have to pick the best possible thing.

Another thing is that evil could be caused of the foolishness of someone,

It could be not seeing the long term benefits, or not knowing that society can help.

Or sometimes it's something more complicated like the lack of opportunity.

If you're able to do anything and make any resource available...

Then it comes down to researching the ends of anybody's means to well being.

And then making sure their ends are fulfilled through benevolent means.

The good means ought to convince people to choose them over the evil means.

I often think about this when I ponder about how to maximize everyone's happiness.

"Well, it just happens that we're planning to fight something like Zero." Hai says.

The four of us then talk about the whole quest we're having to defeat Dark Mind.

"Ooh, gotcha. Well, we can assure, you've done a great job so far!" Bandee says.

He then says, "You will most likely be recognized as heroes, just like Kirby!

And you're also proof that Popstar doesn't have depend on Kirby to be saved.

Even if Kirby can save it, you make the people of Popstar feel more secure.

This is also why Kirby takes a break sometimes, so others can become heroes too.

Surely, Kirby can come and help in this situation. What do you think?"

Emronia suggests, "Well, if there's a way to undo the corruption the mirrors caused.

I think it would be great. Kirby did save others from possessions before, right?"

"Of course, Kirby will figure it out." Bandee nods, "He has saved others before."

I also ask, "In that case, could Kirby join us in defeating Dark Mind?"⁷²

Kirby whispers to Bandee, who nods to him and agrees.

⁷² Kirby (or the multiple Kirbys) heroically defeats Dark Mind in Kirby & The Amazing Mirror.

Bandee says, "Kirby believes you can get this done, and that Popstar will cheer you!

I also believe in you. However, if it goes wrong, Kirby can help too!"

"Thanks, you two are amazing!" Emronia tells Kirby and Bandee.

I then tell Kirby, "I'm also sure you can help with the dilemmas too,
After all, you solved the food crisis in Dream Land, and made everyone happy."

Kirby nods and cheers me on. For sure, he is the good guy I believe he is.

We said our goodbyes afterwards and took our warp stars back to Popstar.

3 - Captivity

We reach Floralia during the evening, as the sun sets in on the horizon.
As we land back on Royal Road, we see Lolo and Lala running towards us.
"Hey, you four! You gotta see this, follow us!" Lolo says, and then we follow him.
Hai and the orbs take the elevator, while us lakesprites fly down a level.
We gather at the middle layer of the city, and follow Lolo's lead.
And then, we head into an alley, with a dead end, where the two spiders are.
Right at the end, Neblino sits trapped with his body wrapped with silk.
"There you are, at last. This guy just fell into my web trap." Taranza tells us.
He then looks at Neblino, "Now, let's see what he's been hiding under that mask."
The cubic white mask is pulled, revealing his true image.
His round head bears a dark gray color, with a muted purple hue. Like blueberry jam.
As for his eyes, which have been two all along, they lean towards a rouge color.
The hair he has is longer than his body, shaped like clouds, and puce-colored.
Two small pink horns come from his hair, and two lop ears are on his sides.
"Wait, what kind of being are you?" I ask Neblino, "What's your species?"
Sectonia says, "He's the guy who's getting investigated for conspiring against us."
"I... I'm actually a Daedream."⁷³ Neblino admits, "That's who I am."
Taranza tells us, "He was getting paid by King Mayon to spread lies about Kirby.
Not only that, but, he and his lackeys helped Eggerlanders invade our city."
"Povynn, that huge robot thing that appeared two days ago..." Hai says.
He tells me "...That was a group of Eggerlanders that broke into the city."
So... the Eggerlanders. They're often called like that because of a former King.
Their land used to be ruled by a tyrant that went by the name of King Egger.
I was told before by Lolo that Egger has an obsession with kidnapping Lala.
And Lolo used to go by himself all the way to Egger's lair to punish him.
Eventually, Egger succumbed once for all, and was succeeded by his nephew.
And well, this nephew was none other than King Mayon.
"And he also moonlighted for Dark Mind, doing jobs for him." Sectonia tells.
Neblino then says, "When I arrived on Popstar, I looked for freelance work.
It just happened that at that time, both King Mayon and Dark Mind were hiring.
King Mayon offered good amounts of money for me to start-up my lodge.
And Dark Mind promised that he would grant our wishes if he conquered Popstar."
Sectonia then says, "Well, if you knew better, this could have been easily avoided.
Because there are a lot of other job opportunities across Popstar."
Taranza chuckles, "Yeah, I think it's funny he went for the comically evil guys."
"I propose an ultimatum," Neblino says, "I want to have a duel with any of you.
If whoever fights me defeats me, I'll do community service or anything you wish.
But, if I win, then... I'll still work for King Mayon and Dark Mind."

⁷³ Daedream is one of the pals (species) that appears in Palworld.

"But, we just beat King Mayon up!"⁷⁴ Lala chuckles, "I don't think he'll recover."
 "And we're about to get Dark Mind next, so you better think about it!" Sectonia says.
 Neblino then says, "Then, if I win, I want to be the new King of Floralia!"
 Sectonia laughs, "You won't last a week without my army knocking on your door.
 I am the head of state, but you, appear to be a head of cabbage."⁷⁵
 Neblino says, "Well, in addition to being pardoned... I want to go on a cruise."
 "I can accept that," Sectonia says, "I heard that a cruise will tour the Onion Ocean."
 "Ooh, Onion Ocean? I know there's a sunken city"⁷⁶ at the bottom." Lala comments.
 Sectonia chuckles, "City at the bottom of the ocean? Ridiculous!"
 "Well, then," Neblino says, and then asks, "Who is up for the challenge?"
 We look at each other and discuss about who should step up for it.
 Hai covers his fist and proudly says, "I'm up for messing this guy up!"
 Taranza warns him, "Hai... this guy can fly. He might even throw you off the island."
 Hai rolls his eyes and crosses his arms as the spider magician speaks to him.
 "I could probably take him on, I know this guy's moves." I suggest as I step up.
 Sectonia tells me, "Are you sure? I think I'm the best at combat here."
 "Yes, I'm sure about this. I know about his game." I tell her.
 Lolo then warns me, "But, Povynn! The stakes will depend on you!"
 I nod at him, and say, "I know, but, I want you all to rest for now."
 "And Hai. I know you're very eager to fight him. But, I want you to be safe." I say.
 The council wishes me the best, but then Neblino interrupts, "I'm waiting, clown."⁷⁷
 From his military jacket, he pulls a scythe glimmering with the evening's lights.
 I hold my weapon with both hands, and point it at him as I leap towards him.
 A flash happens as the both of us clash blades, and the both of us are sent backwards.
 He then jumps and flies away from the alley, and I chase him through the city.
 Dust and pollen fly away from the floor as we blast through the streets.
 Then, mid-air, he turns and throws purple poison at me, I cough it out.
 I raise my hands and turn my Aiow into a shower of daggers, and throw them at him.
 "You're a monster!" Neblino yells as he covers himself with his cape.
 I take back my weapon, as it becomes a spear again, "Sorry, pal. I don't make the rules."
 He flies below, to the bottom layer of this island, and I follow him from above.
 Then, I grab my spear and fly in a spiral towards him and strike him like drill.
 Neblino leaps and chuckles, "I bet you and the rest are eager to fight Dark Mind."

⁷⁴ See endnote 11: "Admit It"

⁷⁵ In a draft, someone told me that this scene reminded them of Persona 4 (but in a bad way) In that game, one of the characters, Adachi, buys cabbage at the Junes store, and the fandom decided to associate him with cabbages.

⁷⁶ There is a sunken city on Stage 4 and the Boss Stage of Onion Ocean, a level in Kirby's Return to Dreamland. There's also another sunken city on Stage 5 of Overload Ocean, which is from Kirby: Planet Robobot.

⁷⁷ In Final Fantasy VII Remake (and Rebirth), Sephiroth says, "I'm waiting, Cloud."

But, despite all that research, you still don't know jack about his true form!
If you were to see it, you'd be so scared, so petrified, that you'd call your mother!⁷⁸
The two of us find ourselves at the lower area, where the maintenance buildings are.
I break into one of them and spot some pipes with a valve and a faucet.
Perfect, I think this can take away this poison. I let the water run, and wash myself.
He then appears behind me and almost slices me with his scythe, so I slide below.
A pipe explodes with the slash of Neblino's weapon, flooding the room.
He then jumps and breaths out an icy breeze, freezing over the water.
I look below, and my feet are trapped under the hard ice that formed over.
Neblino jumps and tries to swing his scythe again, but I block it with my spear.
Then, after pushing him, I look at my spear and use it to chip away the ice.
As if I were playing golf, I strike the ice and shoot shards back at him.
Then, after that, with my perceptual tricks, I load a lot of noise into his ears.
He covers his ears, closes his eyes, and screams, "That.... that does it!"
When I'm about to hit him with the point of my weapon... I start feeling... drowsy...
Almost as I fall over, I launch the spear at him, just like a javelin.
My face meets the sweet and chill surface of the layers of ice that had formed over.
The water is fresh and clean, like it came straight from the mountains.
I open my eyes, and lift myself away from the water as if I came out of a pool.
Neblino sleeps at the corner as his eyes remain closed and his wounds get washed.
"It's bedtime for you." I whisper as I grab him with my arms and carry him away.
Is he misguided, or just foolish? We may have been able to correct him in a way.
Well, time to let the rest of the council take care of him... and the rest of the lodge.⁷⁹

⁷⁸ It's a reference to a quote Porky (Pokey) Minch says in Earthbound (also known as Mother 2 in Japan)

⁷⁹ See endnote 12: "The Remaining One"

4 - Verdict

I place Neblino on a bed, as the rest of the council gathers around me.
"Do you think he'll be okay?" I ask, "I didn't want to... you know, be too harsh."
Quentin pats my shoulder, "I'm certain that he will, according to what I see."
"And if he doesn't..." Sectonia says, "Then, we'll say it was just part of the war."
"That doesn't solve it. I hope that he gets to be a good citizen afterwards." I say.
I tell the group, "The redemption of someone is better than the end of their life."
The daedream slowly shakes himself, and opens his eyes slowly.
"Povynn... you bested me." He says, in soft tone, "That fight... went pretty hard."
"Hopefully, if you fight again..." I tell him, "it should be for a good cause."
We close the curtains behind him, and turn back to see his Emolga partner.
"Come closer, there is something you should know." He tells us.
We all come towards him and pay attention to what he is about to say.
The Emolga whispers, "The last mirror pieces that you saved are fakes...
While working for Dark Mind, he swapped some real shards with replicas.
Then, he handed the fakes to other individuals loyal to Dark Mind.
The remaining legitimate shards are located at our lodge's basement.
However, they're locked with a combination of numbers."
And so, he whispers onto us the pass code that he mentioned.
"I am also here to turn myself in." He says, "I was working alongside him.
He ordered me to develop a heavy knight mecha for the Eggerlanders.
I'm really sorry for all the trouble. Let me correct my mistakes."
We leave the hospital, and fly down below to the Old Odyssey island.
There, we arrive at an almost abandoned Roundkick Lodge.
The spiders wait outside, while us lakesprits walk inside, as clients.
Some Noddies, sleepy Kirby-like beings, rest at the couches.
The bartender wasn't there, neither was the Snivy that followed Neblino.
I walk the wooden stairs to the first floor, where the couches are.
Then, at a dark corner, I find a trapdoor that leads even further below.
Downstairs, at the basement, there's a safe with a key code lock inside.
On the other parts of the basement there's fridges with cakes and food.
But, that is not of interest for now. We put on goggles for what we're about to do.
I press zero, then four, then five, and then one.⁸⁰ The strongbox opens for me.
And there they are, the genuine remaining shards, contained in bedsheets.
We carefully take them, and close the safe, making sure it looks intact.
When we leave the lodge, the spiders are wearing their goggles as well.
"Here they are," I hand over the pieces, "Will tomorrow be the day?"
Taranza nods, "Yes, tomorrow in the morning we'll do this."

⁸⁰ The 0451 combination, which has appeared in a variety of games.

Book VII - Revelation of One Celsius Degree⁸¹

1 - The Great Sky Symphony

Very early in the morning, I wake up. Not even my alarm got time to wake me.
Not even the sun has risen. Only the early glimmers come into the sky.
I notice Hai woke up at the same time as me, and see him stretching his arms.
So I tell him that I'll take a quick shower, and then head to the buffet.
At the buffet I meet up with Emronia and Quentin, who also got up early.
"Seems we got enough time to have breakfast without hurry." Quentin said.
"Thankfully." I say as I pick up a plate, "Her Majesty planned to start this early."
I make myself a sandwich of white cheese, lettuce, and protein.
"Sorry for being late!" Hai says to us as he arrives at the buffet.
I give him a plate and say, "It's fine. We have plenty of time still."
After breakfast, we walk out and see Lolo and Lala waiting in front of the hotel.
"So, what will be the plan?" Quentin asks the two rulers of Eden Land.
"Queen Sectonia decided the battle will take place here, in Royal Road." Lolo says,
Lala says, "This place has the biggest arsenal in Floralia, it has cannons everywhere."
"Thing is, you haven't seen them before because they hide behind the walls." Lolo says.
Lala then says, "The citizens also have a protocol to defend themselves."
We walk up to the top layer of the island, and see the spiders on the edge.
From there, Queen Sectonia drops a seed half the size of her body.
The seed then softly descends into the surface as Taranza sprinkles some water.
The spiders then turn towards us, "Glad you're here. Please wait for us." Sectonia says.
We then see the spiders fly towards the palace, as the seed lands at its destination.
After a pair of minutes, an alarm goes off the speakers spread across the city.
Some serious marching music plays, at moderato speed, in the background.
The bass drum plays one whole note then half note triplets, and repeats.
Chords of strings, with some brass joining in, plays as the piece develops.
The Queen then lets her voice be heard in the announcement.
"Attention, my fellow Floraliens. The time has come to defend Floralia!
The mirror will be assembled at the square in front of the palace in an hour.
Please bring everything you got to defeat Dark Mind and his henchmen.
I know it might be hard, but, we're aiming for the best outcome we can get."
Some minutes after, as the sprinklers finish watering, the spiders come back to us.

⁸¹ The title is related to discussion of Climate Change. Climate Change has been sometimes (dramatically) described as an "Apocalypse", that word translates to "Revelation". The word "Revelation" is used instead of Apocalypse in order to match the first letters of each book with the word "Symmetry". As for the one Celsius degree reference, that has to do with world temperatures rising one degree since preindustrial times, and ecological experts trying to prevent the temperatures from rising even more.

We all put on our goggles, and the spiders bring a wide box, containing the mirror.
This mirror, or at least its glass, used to be at the center of the Mirror World's hub.
The same place we landed on whenever we entered the Mirror World, that amphitheater.
The first time the spiders visited it, someone shattered the mirror and spread its shards.
Hence, that began the search for all the pieces. It took months, but it's finally over.
Of course, the original frame of the mirror still sits alone in the Mirror World.
But, the Florilians built a new frame for this mirror, that can be closed and opened.
With the box closed, we head towards the place where the battle will take place.
The Florilians start gathering. People of the sky and other spiders come in early.
Some share breakfasts with others, bringing food and drinks.
Waddle dees, either natives, or tourists from the surface, come in too.
Amongst the waddle dees, we see the King of Dream Land, and Meta Knight, walk in.
"Thanks for coming, King Dedede, and Meta Knight, the real one." Sectonia says.
Sectonia and Dedede shake hands, "Of course, this is for all of us." Dedede responds.
A multitude of Florilians and tourists gather, and they're as packed as a concert.
"The dreamstalk⁸² should be rising towards us right now." Sectonia mentions.
Emronia tilts her head, and asks the Queen, "The dreamstalk?"
The Queen points at the gigantic vines that grew all the way towards Floralia.
Residents of Popstar climb their way up as they reach the square and stand along us.
Other orbs, of the same species as Lolo and Lala, walk with armor and weapons.
"Good morning, Your Majesty." An armored orb tells Lolo, "We are ready to attack."
The time comes, and Sectonia opens the box for her to place the mirror.
The final piece is placed, as the glass is completed, and seamlessly unites.
"If he emerges, allow us to attack. Or else, we'll pull him with our silk." Sectonia orders.
Hai asks Taranza, "What if we enter the mirror to ambush him?"
The spider magician shakes his head, "He might trap us if we do that."
After a pause, he says, "However, we might have to go if there's no other choice."
Florilians, Dreamlanders, Edenlanders, and the others line up and get ready.
We watch each other's backs, as the sky dawns into a red tone.
The mirror levitates towards the sky, as its glass lights up.
Clouds form a circle through the skyline, and a glimpse at the top.
The Queen of Floralia points at the arrival of the fear we'll confront.
First, as a silhouette, with horns behind his glowing eyes, and a grim cape.
Pauldrons with shining, polished metal spikes on top of them.
And floating fists placed as if he were to cross his nonexistent arms.
"That's him, attack!" The Queen commands, and the projectiles are fired.
Dark Mind covers himself with his cape as he covers himself from the blasts.
Let it be arrows, bullets, bombs, scarfies, or anything else. It was all thrown at him.
He laughs at us, as he remains undefeated, teleporting to avoid our attacks.
At the very top of the sky, he opens his cape to summon several mirrors.

⁸² The giant plant that Kirby walks across in Kirby: Triple Deluxe.

There's even the sight of a single-eyed orb under his cloak.
Several beings emerge from the mirrors and fly towards us.
And they happen to be the dark and wicked clones that we heard about.

2 - That's Your Competition⁸³

Dark Mind disappears in front of us, leaving his minions up to the fight.
"Now! Each one, attack Dark Mind's henchmen!" Sectonia commands.
The Queen then flies off to the sky, screaming and unleashing her swords.
While the army of the mirrors falls into the Kingdom.
As she reaches the mirrors that fly way above Floralia,
She is confronted by none other than Dark Meta Knight.
This is the perpetrator that shattered the mirror and spread its pieces.
He may look like the real Meta Knight, but, he is no hero, unlike the real one.
What distinguishes him from the real one are his colors, his body and wings are gray.
His boots are red like rubies, his sword is silver, and his mask has the mark of a slash.
And now he is clashing swords with Sectonia, who then covers him with her web.
She flies above him, and crosses her rapiers as she sends him flying to the ground.
As I watch them fight, a group of waddle dees, all loyal to Dark Mind, surround us.
"We'll take care of them, Povynn." Quentin says, "You can fight alongside Hai."
And so, I jump and fly above the battle over the city as Hai holds onto me.
The two of us then softly land on the Petal Miraculia, just in front of the palace.
Hai loads his crossbow, and aims it the bigger foes that Dark Mind sent.
Meanwhile, I'm here at his back defending him with my spear.
Figures jump from one roof to the other and between the alleys.
After clearing the area up, the two of us run into a different wing of the city.
The name "Petal Orquida" is carved onto its wooden nameplates.
A post office and museums can be seen around this area.
Walls explode, and posts fall to the floor as we hear the battle heat up.
My spear stabs the ground as I stop another of our enemies... actually, two.
A dark version of Lolo, who wore leather gloves and pointy boots.
And a dark Lala, with a pointy bow, and sharing a grin with her own Lolo.
We hear a familiar voice, that says, "I know about an urban myth out there."
It says that if you break a mirror, It'll give you seven years of bad luck!⁸⁴
The spear is taken off the ground as I spin it ahead of the two, and we surround them.
Then, from where we came, Lolo and Lala rush in while carrying regular mirrors.
"Haaah! Take this! Seven years of bad luck!" He says as he slams it on his clone.
Lala then strikes her clone in the head with a hand mirror, knocking her out.
The two then cover their clones inside eggs, and push them away, to the surface.
"Povynn! We need your help. There are certain enemies we can't reach!" Lolo tells me.
The blue orb then points at the airships and blimps that surround Royal Road.
Several scarflies fly towards the airships and carry Sir Kibbles into the ship.

⁸³ This title is inspired by the quote "Look in the mirror. That's your competition."

⁸⁴ This superstition was supposedly spawned by ancient Romans, who believed the gods would look at people from inside the mirrors, and that the body renewed itself every seven years.

Sir Kibbles are beings similar to waddle dees or the orbs of Eden Land.
 But, they all wear a brass helmet that covers their entire head... or body.
 They are armed with blades in shapes of crescent. Like some sort of metal boomerangs.
 Just when I'm about to take off, Hai says, "Hey, are you just gonna leave me here?"
 I tell him, "I promise I'll be back really soon. You can stick with Lolo and Lala for now."
 Hai wishes me luck as I wave back at the group and take off into the sky.
 I stick my spear into one of the scarfies and throw it towards another one.
 As the explosion brings me higher, I fly towards one of the invaded airships.
 The backdoor breaks as I kick it and enter the cabin, and face the group of Sir Kibbles.
 With the point of my spear, I grab and push each one of them out of the ship.
 Then, I run towards the last one, grab it by the face, and jump out of the front window.
 "Hah! Slam dunk!" I say as I throw the last kibble at a foley, and take a dive below.
 I then fly to the Sepal Layer, the middle floor of the city, and chase some wheelies.
 A group of spiders and people of the sky run into their homes as these wheels take over.
 Taranza told me about them, they're like motorcycle wheels, with an eye on each side.
 They even have the handlebars, exhaust pipes, and seats that bikes have.
 And so, with several stabs, I punch holes into their tires, "It'll be hard to repair that!"
 Then I grab the last one and drive all the way back onto the upper floor.
 At the square, I find King Dedede dueling against his own doppelganger.
 A grim, dark copy⁸⁵ of him, gothic hues, and completely blank eyes.
 Instead of having the peace sign emblems of the original, he had some sort of bullseyes.
 The two face each other like sumo fighters, staring at each other.
 They surprise each other by crouching and jumping up into the air.
 And then, the two of them spin around as they hold their hammers tight.
 Even whirlwinds form between them, which even draws me into the arena.
 I jump out of the wheelie, which gets dragged into the middle of the fight.
 Then, the real King stops and smacks his clone with his hammer, to the ground.
 The wheelie then runs in fear out into another part of the city, away from us.
 Lolo runs into the fight, and smacks the fake Dedede with a swing of a hammer.
 "See? I told you we would be back together." Lolo says, as Lala and Hai show up.
 Shadow Dedede then does a back flip and lands perfectly over a tower.
 His hammer opens, as rockets fire from its inside, heading towards all of us.
 So, the original King spins his hammer and swings it at each missile.
 Lolo and Lala then cover the other missiles into eggs, and shoot it back.
 But then, Shadow Dedede strikes them back, as if we were playing tennis.
 As we shoot against each other, he then opens his mouth and sucks storms of air.
 "Hey! Catch this!" Hai shoots five bolts at Shadow Dedede's hammer, shattering it away.
 Shadow Dedede extends his glove to the sky and summons an axe twice his height.
 Surprise! He nearly knocks me as he chases me and swings it at my head.
 I fly and take my friends away, as he chases the others. He's getting hard to avoid.

⁸⁵ Shadow Dedede, who appears in the Dededetour! Mode that's included in Kirby: Triple Deluxe.

Then, from his back, the real Dedede hits him, right in the head.
The King of Dreamland lifts him like sand on a shovel and sends him flying.
And then, he launches the axe up in the sky at his mirror clone.
Both the fake monarch and his axe shatter into glass dust, as the King turns away.
"Bad asses don't look at explosions." He chuckles, as we seek our next opponent.

3 - She Snaps at Him

As our portion of the council walks towards forward, I look above at the sky.
With the rest of the copies shattered, there was still one surviving.
We all gathered, to see Dark Meta Knight fight against his original.
And not only the masked blue knight was fighting, but, Sectonia and Taranza too.
All against one very edgy clone, going from one side to the other in seconds.
"Okay! Explain to us for once... Why do you seek to attack us?" Sectonia asks.
She's pointing her swords at the cloned knight, who's not even breaking a sweat.
"The influence of our master needs to extend far beyond, to other Kingdoms" He says.
The cloned knight says, "Turns out, the miracle fruit can give such a great power."
The four keep fighting, three on one, in a fight of silk strings and blades.
Dark Meta Knight says, "To think we almost made you fall for our other plan."
"What was it?! Was it the mirrors that could corrupt⁸⁶ us?!" Sectonia asks.
The four then land on top of the palace, as the wind blows over their capes.
The clone says, "Exactly. You just figured out that we needed your immense power."
He calmly holds his head and rubs his chin, through his mask, as he chuckles.
He says "It is amusing. If you fell for it, people would have blamed you for being evil."
Sectonia then lets a breath out, and responds, "Well, you wicked clones...
You wicked clones are not original at all, you have to depend on us to exist!"
She chuckles, "I think it wouldn't be very wise to destroy whoever gave you form.
And I think you must have a lot of free time if you wanna annoy us!"
She points with her glove, and asks "Is it fun for you to see some poor spiders suffer?"
"This is what you're doing! You're this messed up! You sicko!" She tells him.
"You better change your ways⁸⁷, or else you'll feel the bite of the Queen!" She taunts him.
The two then keep clashing swords, at magnificent speeds.
Dark Meta Knight then jumps away and unleashes a tornado.
Then, Sectonia grabs Taranza, and jumps through the wind, cutting it with her swords.
She charges towards the cloned Knight and fences with him again.
Then, from the side, the real Knight stabs at his clone, failing each time.
From below, King Dedede breaks the roof with his hammer, and slams the enemy.
The edgy clone runs through the city, and flies away, avoiding all danger.
At that time, he flies just past us, and I use my spear to trip him down.
He then fences against me, and is getting way faster than me.
I scream for help, as the other come, and surround him.
He flies and dodges each projectile and swing that is launched at him.
The clone then hides himself into a body-sized mirror, and appears behind us.
"Hah! Gotcha!" Taranza grabs him out and spins a web on him, "Now let's finish him!"
And so, we nod at each other, and run one next to the other, taking turns.

⁸⁶ This is what happens in to Sectonia in her backstory in Kirby: Triple Deluxe.

⁸⁷ Michael Jackson – Man in the Mirror.

With citizens of Dreamland and Edenland going off, and finishing with the Floraliens.

Then, out of nowhere, we see chef Kawasaki running with a giant wooden spoon.

Spoiled spaghetti coils at the end of the spoon, as he aims it at Dark Meta Knight.

"Here's a taste of spoiled pasta!"⁸⁸ Kawasaki pushes the food inside the clone.

The chef runs away from the scene, and Dark Meta Knight gets really dizzy.

He really can't help himself, he just lets himself be hit and slashed.

And at last, the Queen of Floralia, shows her scepters and finishes him with a thunder.

A loud thunder, flashing in front of us, cracking the impostor away, and leaving nothing.

The smoke clears, and after some second, Hai asks, "So... what do we do now?"

I look above at the sky, and see the mirror that previously summoned Dark Mind.

"Here is our plan" Sectonia says, and turns to the Floraliens, "Spiders... gather around"

Each cloud spider comes to the Floralian Queen and lift up each one to their hands.

Then, a multitude of strings are thrown into the inside of the mirror, rippling its glass.

The spiders pull with all of their might, even getting others, like Dedede, to pull as well.

"Your Majesty... Maybe Dark Mind could be too big to fit through." A spider suggests.

She raises all of her six hands, and all of the spiders stop pulling, leading to silence.

Sectonia says, "We did a great job defeating Dark Mind's henchmen here at home..."

However, it might happen that we will need to enter the portal to fight him.

And I intend to join them too. In fact, I've discussed this with the rest of the council."

She looks at the worried Floraliens and says, "If I don't come back for an entire week..."

My sister will hold an interim position, so she can host elections for a new ruler."

The council joins in a circle, with each one of us putting one hand at the middle.

Then, we nod at each other and cross the threshold, the mirror that we looked for.

Now, it is all or nothing. We are going to find Dark Mind and finish him off.

⁸⁸ That's a reference to Sr Pelo's "EVERY F* TOP 10" video, where the top 100 creepy pastas are rated, and the hundredth best creepy pasta ends up being spoiled pasta.

Book VIII - Yearning for Peace

1 - Emergency

On the other side, I step into a place that resembles the entrance to the Mirror World.

Another amphitheater⁸⁹, with the difference being its condition and lack of light.

Unlike the other, its torn. Some walls had fallen down. And the sky is purple.

Up above, instead of a sun or a moon, there seems to be a dim spiraling light.

No mirrors, other than the one we just came in, can be seen in this area either.

Then, on the center, the air spins until a portal emerges, one that isn't a mirror.

It attracts us towards it, like a plug taken off bringing the water towards it.

So, we all agree to jump, one by one, towards that portal.

When I cross it, me and the council find ourselves standing over barren lands.

Nothing else is on the horizon, other than a sky that spins like a whirlwind.

Dark Mind descends out of the sky, his horns poking out of his mask and armor.

As Sectonia's cape is blown by the wind, she points her swords at him.

"Dark Mind, what drives you to conquer the two worlds beyond the mirrors?" She asks.

The masked lord responds, "My interest is in creating a better version of such worlds."

"From a utilitarian view, what you've done has damaged both realms." I tell him.

But then he responds, "That is only a judgment and not an objective statement."

"Then what makes you believe your actions are justified?" Quentin asks.

Dark Mind responds, "At the end of all this, the reborn worlds will be much better.

It requires me to seize the control of its beings, but the end is reshaping the realms.

After I finish, they will be free of the troubles that they've been facing up until now"

And to think the one who did a lot of sacrifices would become our sacrifice.

"Don't listen to him, just fight!" Hai yells as he leaps into Dark Mind and aims his bow.

I felt so horrified to see Dark Mind slamming a mirror on Hai, throwing him back at us.

"Hai!" I hand over a maxim tomato to restore him, "Be careful. I'll try to protect you."

The food I give to him is one of the best there is in Popstar, it restores one's entire life.

I see his injuries and marks heal and disappear seconds after he takes that food.

"I'm fine, Povynn." Hai tells me, "I got the stamina to beat that thing on my own."

Sectonia tells Dark Mind, "So you are making some sacrifices to reshape the worlds..."

Well, I will let you know that from now on... we're going to do it ourselves instead!"

And so, it begins. We're all fighting against the ringmaster of this show.

"Split and surround!" Sectonia commands. We all form gather in groups of four.

No one has an idea where the north is, so we all depended on the Queen's guesses.

Sectonia forms the northern group along with Taranza, and the Monarchs of Eden Land.

I nod at Hai as we gather on the west, while Emronia and Quentin come by our side.

Then, beyond our enemy, at the opposite side, I see the eastern group forming.

⁸⁹ This area appears at the end of Kirby & The Amazing Mirror. A fight between Kirby and Dark Meta Knight takes place here.

King Dedede lifts up his hammer as Meta Knight stabs the sky with his golden sword.
"We're challenging you, Dark Mind!" Sectonia says, "Let us prove our strength to you!"
Dark Mind chuckles deeply, and nods, "Well then, let us duel and see who's right."
He summons two hexagonal mirrors and makes them spin around him.
The Floralian Queen flourishes her swords and flies headfirst into his head.
With the mirrors, he blocks her attack, and then shoots flares of red stars at her.
Taranza flies by, while carrying Lolo and Lala, who swing their hammers at the flares.
Smoke blows up inside his fists, after catching those flares with his own hands.
"Not bad at all..." Dark Mind tells her, "You did indeed show your royal might."
She responds, "Since you sought to take over me... tell me about your curses.
I want to know if it will end after you're done... or if it will keep going."
He chuckles, "The glasses open up the instincts and desires of the individual.
It's not that they become loyal to me, but that they return to their natural desires."
"You should just go and turn them back to normal!" Hai screams as he unloads his bolts.
But when the five glowing bolts reach his side, he raises a mirror and reflects them.
As he does it, he tells Hai, "You cannot convince me with that temper."
I fly in front of Hai, and swing my spear, sending the bolts high up into the storm.
His news give me despair, but that only convinces me to beat this guy until he gives in.
Because one way or the other, we're going to wipe away all of his hard work.
Meta Knight breaks the sound barrier as he leaps into the air, and swings his Galaxia.
That sword is legendary, and he is seen with it on nearly every duel he's gone to.
I've heard tales of him challenging others to sword duels, to prove his strength.
On each side of its blade there are two spikes, and it has a red gem on its hilt.
"Oh... I know of your strength." Dark Mind blocks him with one mirror.
A tornado forms around the Galaxia, as Meta Knight spins it over the glass.
"It's been obvious, right?" Meta Knight says, "But my clone didn't live up to my glory."
I figured it out, if he's using two of his mirrors, he's vulnerable to our attacks.
Hai runs alongside me as he aims the crossbow and shoots at the second mirror.
And so, Sectonia charges her blades, and swings them as she tackles Dark Mind.
With his cloak being ripped away, he chuckles, and he unleashes a storm of stars.
Taranza then flies off towards the storm and spins a net of magical glittering silk.
Dedede swings his flaming hammer and throws some stars back at their source.
From the distance, Lolo and Lala grab on Taranza, and jump over with their hammers.
"Enough... you've seen nothing yet." Dark Mind then spawns ten more mirrors.
In addition to that, an explosion of wind blasts everyone away from him.
Sectonia finds herself next to the knight, and says, "I have a clue, Meta Knight."
"Dark Meta Knight used his Galaxia to slice the mirror." She says, "Let me tell you how."
After the spider Queen whispers to the knight, he takes off and slices each mirror.
Meta Knight flies away, and Sectonia's rapiers flash as they become scepters.
She charges again at Dark Mind, unleashing glittering flares with her silver staff.
Then, with her golden staff, she sends several purple thunders at him.

With both of her wands united, she strikes against Dark Mind's skull, shattering it.

His cloak is unmade as it blows into feathers, and his head shatters like glass.

As for his body... it just flashes and vanishes out into the thin air.

Shards fall into the floor, which are immediately smashed by Dedede's hammer.

"Take this! I hope that convinces you!" Dedede says as he turns the glass into dust.

Rocks lift up from the ground and fly towards the distance, as the arena lights up.

"Is it over?" Emronia asks, as she walks to the center along with the rest.

Lolo then says, "I don't think so. Looks like there's another challenge ahead."

The light is so bright that I can't help but close my eyes and wait for it to be over.

When I open my eyes, I see the rest of my teammates are safe and sound.

Ahead of us we find halls resembling a diversity of areas, including castles and caves.

We take a serene walk to the other end, where we find another mirror.

"Well, I already had an idea that he wouldn't give himself up so easily." Lala admits.

Meta Knight says, "We still have a lot of energy left, so it's very likely that we'll win."

Emronia grabs some food and bottles out of her bag, to help the rest of the team.

Sectonia closes her eyes and holds Taranza's hands, as they cross the threshold.

And so, we all cross it too, with our eyes closed, prepared for what's to come.

2 - Urgency

I open my eyes once again, and beyond me I see a red sky, and a giant eye.

It stares back at me... and the rest of us, and pounds just like a heart.

I look back at its sclera, which resembles the lava that flows through volcanoes.

"Povynn..." Sectonia whispers to me. "This is Dark Mind's true form."

I recall seeing that eye before... it was what was under his cloak previously.

Perhaps that was a way to communicate with his henchmen, or even us.

Maybe it could be that Popstar has a history of being attacked by giant eyeballs.

"Now, will you restore those who were corrupted by you?" Meta Knight says.

Dark Mind says, "I won't take such orders from you. You've failed to convince me."

"I'm going to tell you right now." Lolo says, "You've harmed thousands of lives.

Not only those who were corrupted, but also those who were harmed by them.

So I believe it would be just to give back that pain back at you. It's what you deserve."

Lolo turns to the group, "Let's put a stop to this, in memory for those who were lost!"

We all jump and scatter around the battlefield, and take out our miracle fruits.

Dark Mind's mirrors emerge once again, spin around him, and fly into the distance.

With the fruit consumed, I feel my whole body shine, from one color to another.

I look back at my teammates, who now glow from one hue to the other, just like me.

How do I feel? Well, I feel better than ever. I could even say I feel more than alive.

In a fraction of a second, I charge with my weapon towards Dark Mind and swing it.

I make several swings in the span of a second, and stab deep into the magma.

And so, one of his areas explodes into fire, which I immediately hit and throw back.

"Now's your chance, Hai." I say as I fly back towards my teammates, and grab Hai.

He grabs his crossbow, which sparks like electricity, and does it like never before.

Then, as we fly above Dark Mind, he jumps across, and shoots a whole set of bolts.

Our enemy explodes once again, this time from the top, as Hai jumps back onto me.

"Guess our equipment is enhanced as well." Emronia flies while holding her bells.

She turns up the knobs to full volume, and slams the Chime Chasers on Dark Mind.

Then, the lava gathers back at him, as he says, "Enough! Your fruits won't suffice."

"Oh, but you underestimate us." I tell him, "This is not just a matter of enhancement.

You're seeing the exaltation of our already refined tricks. Isn't it right, Taranza?"

"Exactly!" Taranza flies by and fully covers a pair of mirrors with his webs.

He then grabs the strings and sends back the silk-covered mirrors.

"If it wasn't for my weaving and puppetry skills..." Taranza charges a magic orb.

Sectonia adds, "Or the years I spend honing my magic and combat skills..."

"Then we might have never been able to do this!" Taranza launches the orb.

His orb, a purple one with a light inside resembling a sun, flies towards Dark Mind.

Lolo and Lala then charge similar magic shots, or the size of the eyeball himself.

The magic orbs of the spider and the rulers of Eden Land cover him completely.

"Wait. Is that it?" Emronia asks, but Quentin says, "He's not dead if he's still flying."

A chuckle comes from the ball as he shakes himself and sends a dozen mirrors.
All the work of the projectiles and beat downs seemed to be undone... partially.

"So much for matching a god-like power." He says as his pupil lights up.

"Your Majesty, watch out!" Meta Knight grabs Dedede as Dark Mind shoots a beam.

So wide, and bright, with a silver hue coming right up from his pupil.

"Let's join in." Meta Knight says, and flies with Dedede towards the eye.

The King takes his hammer all the way, as it imbues with the power of the fruit.
He then swings it at full speed and slams Dark Mind, sending him to the ground.

From below, Meta Knight unleashes a hurricane with his Galaxia.

"Certainly that will stun him." Meta Knight says, "Maybe more will suffice."

He moves his sword from one side then the other, and makes circles above him.
The hurricane gets bigger, and the rest of us get apart, so we don't get sucked in.

King Dedede then runs back towards Meta Knight, panting, "That was close!"

Lolo and Lala launch another pair of gigantic magic shots towards the cyclone.

"Look above!" Quentin says as we jump away from some waddle doos and foleys.

The foley falls over the floor and explodes, the waddle doos jump over him.

Just as they ambush him, he grabs his two beetle blades and knocks them over.

We look over the sky and see that these are all coming from the flying mirrors.

"We got another job in our hands. Remember, slice through them." I say, and take off.
I swing my spear over the air and send a crescent of sharp air into a mirror, breaking it.
Then, I make several other swings, at a few other mirrors, and make them burst away.

Emronia shakes her bells at maximum volume, shattering some more of that glass.

And then, Quentin finishes off by slicing off the remaining mirrors with his blades.

I look back at the hurricane, "Don't let your guard down, anything can happen."

Then, mirrors fly out from the cyclone, and they appear to be even more than before.

"Yes! Show me everything you got! I'll shatter everything you send!" I yell at him.
I'm still not giving up, neither are my friends. I fly around to see how everyone's doing.

Sectonia raises her scepters and takes sending thunders and flares away.

She then takes out some sharp golden chakrams, and throws them at the cyclone.

Despite everything, beams still fire from inside of the hurricane, to any direction.
However, since we are attacking from so far away, we can just notice and dodge them.

Dedede tells Meta Knight, "Maybe I could send a wave a sharp air... just like you."

"Wait... Do you want the Galaxia?" Meta Knight asks, "Or will you use your hammer."

"Watch and learn." Dedede says, as he swings his hammer three times over the air.
From the swings, three sharp crescent waves of air emerge and fly into the distance.

As I finish shattering mirrors, I turn towards Dark Mind and taunt him again.

"Have the spiders ever told you that my artifact was handed down by Arceus?"

To think, the Coronetian Aioh and its power would assist in such fight.
Might have taken light years for it to travel, but, in the end, it was definitely worth it."

At first it seems I'm talking to no one, just looking over at the loud winds.

But suddenly, the eyeball flies right in front of my face and grabs me with his mirrors.

I can even see myself on the reflection of his pupil. However, he's... way too bright.
"There's nothing worse than a god meddling where he doesn't belong." He tells me.
"Let me go, damn it!" I get trapped with dozens of mirrors, "Wait. You know Arceus?"
Dark Mind says, "When you hide inside mirrors for centuries, you hear a lot of tales."
Then, shards as sharp as knives fly towards my body, "I'll end you first."
I struggle to leave his grip as his pupil lights up and shoots a beam in front of me.
"Stop! Leave Povynn alone!" Sectonia screams, and moves her gloves.
A pink sigil, similar to a flower with heart shaped petals, is drawn in the air.
"This was supposed to be a last resort." She says, "Go forth, Coily Rattler!"
A flying snake, made out of stone of red colors, emerges from the portal.
"I'm not falling for this again." Dark Mind says, and slices it with his mirror shards.
Each part of the stone snake becomes gray like stone, and explodes into dust.
Sectonia clenches her fists, then admits, "Well. I didn't like that snake anyways."
She changes her scepters into rapiers again, and charges towards the eyeball.
Quentin follows by flourishing his beetle blades, and slicing across our foe.
Emronia slams her bells over and over again, from one side to the other.
Then Meta Knight drops Lolo, Lala, and Dedede as the three smash with their mallets.
"This is for everyone!" Hai screams as he leaps and aims at Dark Mind's pupil.
The pupil lights up as it prepares its beam, but Hai manages to shoot all of his beams.
Our foe is staggered, and explodes on each side and corner... even if he's a ball.
He hits the floor, along with every mirror... You wouldn't believe the pain I feel.
Yes, he might be decomposing, and bursting. But even the fruit couldn't relieve me.
I... I really need help right now. I'm about to close my eyes... and hope for the best.

3 - S-Y-M-M-E-T-R-Y

The Queen of Floralia hovers over me, and lifts me up. "There... Povynn."

She takes out a maxim tomato for me to consume, and then looks back.

"Looks like we're not done yet." She says as she notices Dark Mind's puddle light up.

I tell her, "Sectonia, have you ever noticed that both of our weapons can transform?"

"Yes... Are you suggesting something regarding such thing?" She asks me.

I say, "Of course. Please take my Coronetian Aiow and combine it with your scepters."

The group gathers far from the puddle, and she places me in front of them.

I extend my hand, and my weapon flashes before our eyes, before she takes it.

"Stay safe, Povynn." She says as she hugs me, and turns towards the puddle.

From that puddle, a new sphere emerges, bearing the texture of lava once again.

Three pairs of wings, made up of mirrors and crystals, form behind the ball.

Heartbeats are heard once again, as the eyeball prepares his new form.⁹⁰

"I'm going to face him alone for now." Sectonia tells the group, "You deserve to rest."

The group wishes her good luck, and Taranza tells her, "You can do it, Your Majesty!"

She raises the Royal Scepters with one pair of gloves, and the Aiow with another pair.

Three weapons, two of royalty, one of an ancient legendary being, compound into two.

Both the essence of the miracle fruit and of the legendary one imbue her swords.

Both silver and golden but not of electrum, with one being more golden than the other.

Emerald, rose, and golden colors decorate the accents of the blades and the hilts.

Their sizes reach five times the height of the spider, yet, she can easily carry both.

When they meet their blades, their guards blossom into flowers of crystals.

Stars, cubes, and spheres of crystal fly in circles around such guards.

Near the point and hilt, their gems reside. Each gem corresponding to its own blade.

At the flat sides of the blades, lines run in between alternating between each color.

At the center of the blades, saws or chakrams, spin with a colored circles at their sides.

The Floralian Queen then grabs the two swords, and flourishes them in front of him.

"I call these two compound swords..." Sectonia says, "The Heavenly Weavings."

She charges towards him, who immediately fires a beam, which she fences and deflects.

He flaps his wings, sending hundreds of mirrors and thousands of star shaped flares.

Then, she slices through all of the glass and stars, without damaging her swords at all.

His pupil shines again, as it unleashes and even bigger beam, as deadly as the sun.

At the same time, thousands of mirrors and dozens of stars fly towards the spider.

Beyond the speed of sound, her blades and saws deflect the stars towards the mirrors.

Then, a magnificent row of explosions, like fireworks, blasts as all the glass shatters.

At last, she reaches the winged sphere and swings her swords several times at him.

Each knock pushes him away, and shatters some of the mirrors on his wings.

The spider backs away, and the saws in her weapons spin at speeds faster than sound.

The two Heavenly Weavings are put together, and their saws strike against him.

⁹⁰ This form is original to this poem.

Golden sparkles and stars pop out as her blades steadily dip into the lava-like ball. Then, she leaps back, and deflects a few other beams, "Time to shatter you, Dark Mind." Her gems become brighter and more vibrant, as she prepares her next attack. "This is for all the pain you've caused!" She screams as her swords fire massive beams. The beams, bright and like silver, emit star shaped particles around them. When they strike against him, parts of him explode across each side, like a volcano. Dark Mind leaps away, and yells, "This will be the end of your reign, Sectonia." "Not if it were for all the decisions I've taken to get this far." She responds. Her weapons fully charge, and shoot their beams directly at Dark Mind's pupil. He presents his final resort. He blinks and his eye changes into a mouth. All the energy and light from the beams is sucked and absorbed by him. She stares at the eye. He stares at her. The eye is exhausted, yet filled with energy. Dark Mind spits out a combined beam, firing right towards the Floralian Queen. She puts her hand in front and moves them as she summons a wide pink portal. The same type of portal we've seen before, the same kind that brought the snake here. Then, another portal, of the same size, appears right behind Dark Mind. And so, the beam crosses the portal and shoots him from his back, disintegrating him. Rays of light escape from him, as he shrinks into a speck of dust and disappears. All of his particles vanish as the beam crosses the portal over and over again. Eventually, the combined beam fades out, and the Floralian Queen lets a breath out. She slowly descends to the ground, and turns her attention towards us. The war against Dark Mind is over...⁹¹

⁹¹ A reference to Earthbound.

4 - End of an Era

"We did it... Dark Mind is gone forever!" Sectonia tells the whole group.
King Dedede raises a finger and asks, "Are you sure he won't come back?"
"I'm sure." Sectonia nods, "He only regenerates if there's a part of him around.
Now that every piece and particle of him has been destroyed, he can't return."
Taranza hugs the Floralian Queen, "I'm glad this is over, Your Majesty!"
"Hey, you played part in this too!" Sectonia says, "You did great too!"
She turns towards the rest of us, "Thank you for everything! You saved us!"
After celebrating, Emronia asks, "Well, how are we going to return now?"
"I've figured it out." Sectonia says, and summons a huge portal for all of us.
She then says, "If any of you can't fly, I recommend you hang onto someone who can."
Lolo and Lala grab onto Quentin and Emronia respectively. I get to carry Hai.
Meta Knight flaps his wings and lets King Dedede hang onto him.
Sectonia crosses the flower-themed portal, and so, we follow her to the other side.
Beyond the threshold, there's the Kingdom of Floralia, now at peace.
We all land softly on the main square, and greet the citizens who were waiting for us.
It's noon as of right now. The sky is nearly clear, with a few clouds on the horizon.
The streets may have some bricks and debris on the floor, yet, we're all happy.
"Povynn," Sectonia tells me, "It's been a pleasure." She hands me the Coronetian Aiow.
"You're welcome, Your Majesty." I say "This journey has been one of the best I had."
She says, "If you want to, you can stay here longer, while we celebrate the end of an era."
I look back at Hai, Emronia, and Quentin. They nod back at me, and so, I agree.
"Fantastic! I promise we'll clear the debris and get things running." Sectonia says.
The flower girl cook, the person of the sky we've met on the first day, comes to us.
"Thank you so much!" She says, "You brought peace to Popstar and the Mirror World!"
She then says, "Me and the rest of the cafe will prepare something special for you!"
Then, we hear King Dedede say, "Well, once again Popstar is free from these threats."
"Of course. However, I still wonder if Kirby will return." Meta Knight comments.
Just at that moment, the sound of a warp star can be heard from above.
I look above, and see none other than Kirby and Bandee returning from their vacation.
The citizens, along with us, gather to greet them, and ask how it went for them.
The pink puffball then pulls out a shortcake, and opens his mouth wide.
But, then, after a batamon swipes it away, a new cake appears on Kirby's hands!
After finishing his slice, Kirby whispers some things to waddle dee.
Bandee says, "People of Popstar! Kirby and I have a lot to tell you about!
I'm very thankful for those who protected this planet while we were out.
We'll make sure to help all of you clean this place. You can count on us!"

5 - Farewell, Floralia

It's been a week since we saved Popstar and the Mirror World. We're all lying on the grass of Fine Fields once again, behind the tree we visited before. King Dedede and Meta Knight may be back home, but the rest of the council is here. Well, it's an emeritus council. We're now gathering as a group of friends now. "So, what does Floralia have planned for the future, Your Majesty?" I ask Sectonia. She says, "Well, we can of course bring mirrors into Floralia, now that they're safe." A few days ago, at the University of Floralia, they discovered a cure for the corruption. Its ingredients included miracle fruits, and leaves from the planet that Kirby visited. There are two forms to apply it, one of them is compressing them into a bar. And the second one is to synthesize them into a magic spell, that can be sent out. The cure reawakens one's sense of reason, which remains inhibited while corrupted. "Oh, Emronia." Sectonia takes out a makeup kit, "I can finally give this back to you." Emronia blushes as she gets it back, "Thank you... I almost forgot about this!" "Also..." Sectonia says, "You can visit us anytime, we'll be waiting for you." "Yes, you lakesprites are some amazing beings." Taranza says, "Same for you, Hai." From a box I brought, I take out two framed drawings, one dedicated to each spider. "Taranza, Your Majesty?" I say, "You deserve to be happy, so I made these for you." Both of them smile, and thank me. "Oh, these are so beautiful, thanks!" Sectonia says. After watching the sky, the clouds, and the other floating islands, it was time to go. We wave at each other, as me and my friends take one last look at Floralia. One beautiful Kingdom, of islands floating over the clouds, and full of gardens. Farewell, Floralia. I will keep you in my heart for as long as I can.

Endnotes - A Polemic

01 - Figured it out

It was over a month after the re-emergence of Dark Mind.
Two spiders hover across a hall, adorned with columns and a room-spanning carpet.
"Your Majesty, I have some more updates regarding the situation" Taranza said.
The Queen nodded in approval, as the two approached the press room.
He said, "In a town near Gentry Land,⁹² after acquiring one of the mirrors...
One person attacked the rest of his town and vandalized their houses.
Apparently, the attacker was jealous of his neighbors? It all feels weird to me.
After that, some of the townsfolk disappeared and haven't been seen ever since."
"I understand." The spider Queen said, "I am glad we are taking note of it."
She then said, "Whoever is sending those mirrors, we will to put a stop to them."
A round of applause erupted from the audience as she appeared before them.
The Queen presented herself at the lectern, and spoke to the Floralianians.
"Good morning, my fellow Floralianians. I speak to you today to keep you calm.
You might have heard about the incidents regarding mirrors below our Kingdom.
Several people have been affected by those particular looking glasses.
They bear golden baroque frames with wings, stars and a crown on them.
Our guards have taken notice and will make sure that no glass like this enters Floralia.
And, as of right now... we ourselves at the palace will ensure the culprit is found!
So, I insist to all my citizens, to stay safe out there as we take care of our threat.
I believe we will make it. If we all try our best, we'll be proud of it."
Hundreds of claps came from the People of the Sky, spiders, and other creatures.

⁹² Lolo was prince of Gentry Land until he married Lala and became the King of Eden Land. In the Game Boy game, Gentry Land is shown to be an amusement park. However, the canon on this poem will assume that there is both a Gentry Land country and an amusement park with the same name.

02 - Hedge Mazes

Right outside the palace of Floralia, across the hedge mazes, two spiders hovered over.

The sun had just dawned over Popstar, and the sprinklers finished their watering.

Sectonia looked over to the blue sky, and looked at the few clouds going above.

"Sister... What have you been thinking of so much?" The other spider asked.

Not only the head of Floralia was there, but also, her younger sister too.

"I have been wondering, do Floraliens like to see me take care of them?" Sectonia asked.

Her sister laughed, "Of course they do. Or else, they would tell you about it."

"I know what you mean. But, I'm referring to my expectations." Sectonia said.

She added, "Ever since I was raised, my family told me I will fulfill this role.

By coming into this position, I carry the expectations of holding up to them.

It would give me sorrow if I was told that I am not as good as my predecessors."

She sat, and kept looking at the sky and its stars, losing herself in the thought.

Sectonia asked, "What if Floraliens wanted someone else to fulfill this position?

Will such person hold up to what our family has been doing for decades?"

Her sister⁹³ rubbed her cheek gently, "Don't worry about it. Floraliens are wise.

Whenever it be informing you of what they want, or deciding for themselves.

I believe that whichever way this Kingdom takes, there will still be hope."

Sectonia got up again and hugged her sister, "Thanks, I hope it is all true."

The two kept going through the hedge maze, looking at its green scenery.

⁹³ Sectonia's sister is an original creation of this poem.

03 - Laughter

As the tensions grew, and the mirror crisis heated up in Popstar...
The land once ruled by King Egger figured out their strategies.
A snakey⁹⁴ asked, "King Mayon? Aren't you concerned about that recent alliance?"
He said, "The alliance between Floralia and Eden Land? It doesn't bother me too much.
Lolo and Lala may have ended my uncle's reign some years ago, but, let me tell you...
Queen Sectonia's reign is doomed even if we don't move a finger at all.
Once the mirrors corrupt her, Floraliens will suffer with her as their tyrant.
She'll put those who challenge her behind bars, and betray her henchmen.
And those who step foot on Floralia will be met with cannonballs before them.
The Queen could even get the desire of taking over all of Pop Star.
She would become so megalomaniac, she'd say her beauty rivals the divine!⁹⁵
So, surely, Lolo and Lala would have to turn their back on mother nature.⁹⁶
And if Floraliens revolt, it'll be such a violent and gruesome takeover...
To the point that the rebels would be seen as lethal as the Queen herself!"
The snakey and the King laughed as they advanced through the hall.
"My liege, if Kirby comes, how do you think it would play out?" The snakey asked.
He then joked, "Oh, I don't think Kirby would like to see a tyrant like her!
I bet she'd have to sleep for eternity after meeting the puffball!"

⁹⁴ Snakey is one of the type of enemies in the Adventures of Lolo series.

⁹⁵ In Kirby: Triple Deluxe, Queen Sectonia says "My beauty rivals the divine..."

⁹⁶ Tears For Fears – Everybody Wants To Rule The World

04 - Fine Arts

Two lakesprits, one pink and the other blue, arrived at the second Floralian island.

It resembled a giant cake, of multiple levels, embedded with desserts and cookies. This chunk of islands went by the name of Lollipop Land, after its tasty appearance. One of its landmarks was its wedding cake shaped mountain, topped by a workshop.

That building housed several works of art, some of them being of high value.

It was also a place where Floraliens could gather to create their own works of art.

In your language, this geographical landmark is called, "Wedding Mountain."

Next to it, there's sweet plains with streets that resemble cookies.

You can call this part of the island, "Birthday Plains." That is not its real name though.

The two lakesprits, Emronia and Quentin, landed on there while carrying a basket.

"This is surreal, are these... edible?" Emronia asked as she looked at the scenery.

Quentin laughed, "If that's so, then your boots would be sticking into the floor."

The lakeprits girl looked below and lifted her boots, they didn't stick at all.

"This is something I've seen on cartoons⁹⁷, but never in real life!" Emronia said.

Quentin said, "I once heard that in action movies, they have windows made of sugar. So, when any actor has to jump and break through them, it doesn't cause them pain."

The two arrived at a factory in the shape of pastel toy blocks and puzzle pieces.

"I think this is where the Queen told us to go." Emronia said, as the two entered.

Inside, the factory was huge, and it still kept that toy-like appearance.

Conveyor belts ran high up on each floor, transporting materials.

The two lakesprits looked at a map, and walked across a bridge to the "Fruit section."

"Hi there, I'm Emronia, and this is Quentin." She told a male person of the sky.

This flower boy was a young engineer on his mid twenties, and was called Elios.

He wore a cream denim cap backwards, above his curved orange petals.

His suit was a mix of a lab coat and a winter jacket, of a pink color with a bit of mint.

Quentin said, "We've been sent by Her Majesty to leave these recently harvested fruits."

"Oh, I did get a message about that," Elios said, "Go ahead, let me sort them."

The fruits were taken by him, and inserted into tubes corresponding to each type.

"You know? We've been trying to investigate mysteries in this Kingdom." Emronia said.

Quentin added, "We've been asking ourselves about Kirby, and the mirrors too.

Right now, I've been wondering about those who have been affected by the mirrors."

Elios said, "Oh, you might be talking about the corrupted. Those who turned violent.

If you ever encounter them... they'll act like feral creatures, they're not civil at all.

Our only choice is to defend ourselves, even if they used to be like us.

I feel sorrow for what they have to suffer, but until we find a cure, we'll have to do this."

Emronia then asked, "Has anyone tried to find a remedy so far?"

"Of course. Some scientists at the university have been researching it." Elios told her.

Emronia then told Quentin, "Perhaps we could pay them a visit, if that's possible."

⁹⁷ The Simpsons - Burns Verkaufen der Kraftwerk.

After leaving the factory, the two decided to visit the workshop over the mountain.
One of the paintings had spiders and people of the sky flying towards the islands.
Next to it, a picture shows the spiders and people looking at a figure in the sky.
Another painting had one big snake-like machine fighting a masked lord.
A fourth piece depicted such masked lord sleeping away inside a mirror.
As the three left the building, a spider baker alerted them of a cake bandit.
A three-story, white cake with bows and flowers was carried by... a pink puffball?
Quentin jumped off to chase the bandit, who ran through the alleys.
The blue and white lakesprite, Quentin, jumped from roof to roof, with little noise.
He then jumped into one of the ends of the alley, an exit towards the streets.
But then, the thief took another turn, and so, Quentin kept chasing him.
Eventually, the bandit ran towards the streets from the other side.
Quentin extended his hand, and used the power of wind to grab the thief and cake.
But then, the puffball tripped down, and the cake spread through the road.
A grand wheelie, a human-sized wheel being, ran over the cake without a care.
And then, a tank driven by waddle dees flattened the cake beyond recognition.
Quentin grabs the puffball and realizes that was a complete stranger.
The thief was of a species called Batamon, which looks like Kirby, but isn't Kirby.
The baker arrived, and Emronia got anxious, as she put her hands on her mouth.
"Oh no! I... Maybe we can make a free cake for you!" Emronia told the cook.
The baker nodded, "Perhaps this batamon could help too, after cleaning this!"
The group laughed and then proceeded to clean the scene up.

05 - Infiltration

The plans and clues had just emerged, weeks after the crisis started.
Two spiders, the ruler of Floralia and her best friend, flew into the sky.
Two teardrop-shaped orbs came there too, each one riding a warp star.

The four gather and nod with determination at each other.
They all close their eyes, and flew in a straight line towards the mirror.

From the skies of Popstar, they traveled to a different world.

Out into a bright arena shaped like the Colosseum, coated with clouds.

One obstacle stopped them from going into the golden mirror at the center.

A grim imitation of a strong warrior that roamed the skies of their home planet.
A masked sphere with torn wings, and a sword of silver stood and confronted them.

Strong whirlwinds, summoned by the challenger, swept the heroes away.

Then, the clone of the warrior sliced the glass of the mirror into several pieces.
The shards of the mirror hovered away into the sky and spread all across that world.

Giant blades emerged from the ground, knocking over the warp stars of the orbs.

The two spiders grabbed them, and made their way out of this dangerous world.

06 - Two Spiders in the Dark

Taranza followed his Queen as the two quietly opened doors through the mansion. The light of the moon kept fading out, as the sight of objects in the floor would be lost.

"Your Majesty... your presence makes me feel safe, no matter what." Taranza said.

Sectonia nodded, and turned over to rub her servant's cheeks, making him blush.

She whispered, "You make me safe as well, and motivate me to keep going."

As the two walked through a long hall, whispers emerged from the shadows.

"Hey... hey... aren't those, the spiders that suck life out of others to survive?"

"Yes, they are... They even have the audacity to possess others without asking."

Chuckles echoed under the rain, "Oh, him, I bet he abducted the Poppy bros."

The two spiders rolled their eyes, and quietly went to the end of the hall.

But, Sectonia got surprised when she found out that door happened to be locked.

The two spiders then quickly hovered to the other end... to learn it was locked as well.

"Finally... we got the two of them! Now we'll get rid of that power-hungry monarch!"

The gossip got louder, as the spiders tried to open each door on the side of the hall.

"She claims she's beautiful, but, I personally think she actually looks ugly."

Tears came out of Sectonia's eyes, Taranza hugged her, "Don't worry, Your Majesty."

The spider servant told her, "Don't let the opinions of others hurt you."

The two then opened the last door, and got ambushed by a crowd of enemies.

"Peeping toms!" Sectonia called them. She then backed away, along with Taranza.

A waddle doo then pointed at the spiders, and yelled, "Now... get them!"

"Hold it!" Sectonia commanded, "What is the deal behind all those rumors?"

The group of foes, of all sizes, mostly small ones, whispered to each other.

"I heard that you said that we, cloud spiders, are parasitic."⁹⁸ Sectonia told them.

The waddle doo in front said, "Uhh, well, we never said that!" He laughed afterwards.

"You did! While it is possible for us to be parasitic, we don't practice it." Taranza said.

Sectonia nodded, "In fact, we've been having alternative diets for centuries now."

A sir kibble whispered to the waddle doo, "This might be our only chance to get them."

"Oh yeah!" The waddle doo said, and then pointed his rod at the spiders, "Attack!"

The two spiders jumped back, and Sectonia pulled out two scepters out of her cloak.

One was silver, with an emerald at the end. The other was golden with a pink gem.

The noise of the crowd ramped up, as they all leaped towards the Queen.

She lifted up her golden scepter and unleashed a thunder that knocked out the foes.

Boom! A whole explosion blasted off the wooden floor and walls of the building.

Taranza peeked, from behind the Queen, at the unconscious gang of foes.

She then turned her scepters into rapiers, and sheathed them away.

"Phew..." Sectonia let a breath out, and fanned herself with one of her six gloves.

From one door at the end, a white cubic masked being came in and locked the door.

"Hey, what are you doing here?" Taranza asked the recent visitor.

⁹⁸ That's actually a reference to a pause screen text in Kirby: Triple Deluxe

The masked being shivered, "Oh, I just got lost here!" He told the spiders.
"This is a dangerous place, you know." Taranza said, "It isn't a place to play around."
The masked being nodded, "Yes, yes, I know!... I just got here on accident!"
He looked around, and jumped out of a window, flying away from the scene.
Sectonia and Taranza shrugged at each other and kept inspecting the mansion.

07 - Fear of Spiders

Very late in the night, after Sectonia went to sleep after that long day.
The Queen of Floralia found herself hovering inside of her own palace.
However, things seemed off, as if each path led to a different place.
It felt as if each room was different from its counterpart in the real world.
She looked at her shadow behind the night light, revealing a different silhouette.
The shape appeared to be like a wasp, who was three times her own size.
She ran and closed the door behind that room, panting after doing so.
This didn't look like her palace at all, it almost felt as if it belonged to someone else.
She heard laughter, like the voice of a wicked woman, behind her.
Flaps of bat wings could be heard by her, outside of the walls.
More laughter came by, not only by that female voice, but by others too.
She opened the next door, and was shocked to see a mirror fall over her.
When she turned around, she spotted several mirrors lying on the palace.
Closing her eyes, she flies away and tries her best to escape this building.
Her eyes opened again, by force, as she found herself being chased.
Not only Dark Meta Knight was flying behind her, but also Dark Mind.
She looks at her hands, they looked... in a way that they didn't fit her at all.
As she turned around, she noticed Dark Meta Knight crushing her old gloves.
She felt herself being grabbed by the two, and struggled to get off them.
Sectonia told them, "I know you want to hurt me... but you'll soon taste revenge."
The two fiends of the mirror world revealed mirrors in front of her sight.
She was forced to look at a figure that was nothing like her, behind that glass.
Her eyes closed, but then, they were forced to stare, and she screamed in frustration.
She then woke herself up, springing out of the bed like a catapult. It was a bad dream.
"I do hope these dreams stop soon." She said, and covered herself in her sheets.

08 - Girls' Day Out

After finishing breakfast, Sectonia and Lala decided to go to Wild World. This is the fourth great island of Floralia, while sorting from bottom to top.

"The jungle is full of life as usual." Lala commented as she arrived.

Sectonia nodded, "Yes, it does look delightful during the morning."

The two traveled over paths of stone tiles with different patterns on them.

On the side, some of the local plants made out the shape of a hexagon.

The grass looked thick, yet it was tidy. It was of several shades of green.

Sectonia's face cheered up a bit, as she kept following Lala across the paths.

The two stared at a temple that appeared to have a facade that was almost golden.

It was ancient, hundreds of years old, yet, it was preserved moderately.

At least some vines had grown next to the stone stairs that led into it.

Inside, it was dark, yet, it had some lights illuminating its gilded stairs.

Columns with golden and teal patterns of triangles supported the building.

"Thankfully, it is safe." Sectonia said, as she looked at the statue of a snake.

Lala said, "Are you sure it will be useful this time?" and stared at the reptile.

"Lala, I strongly believe that we ought to use everything." She told her.

Sectonia explained, "We've already put ourselves in some sort of crisis.

A small apocalypse, where at least a portion of Popstar got corrupted.

If we try our best right now, we can prevent any bigger apocalypse than this."

The two quietly left the temple, and felt the exotic air of the jungle.

Lala then looked back at Sectonia, who cried again, and cleared her tears.

"What's wrong, Sectonia? I think we've accomplished a lot!" Lala told her.

Sectonia said, "It's just... that... I'm still worried about what would have happened.

I'm even scared that if we make a mistake, all of this will be for nothing.

If Dark Mind somehow brainwashed me... could you take care of me?"

Lala blinked and felt herself shiver, "Sectonia... what are you saying?"

Sectonia said, "If a rebellion breaks out against me, fulfill my current wish...

That would be, giving Floraliens the desirable lives they wish for.

Because if they rebel, it would mean they're wishing for Floralia to improve."⁹⁹

Lala nodded slowly, "I see... and I understand what you mean.

But, Sectonia, it is unlikely that would happen. It's mere speculation.

We are doing the best we can, and following your advice, remember?"

Sectonia let a breath out, "Yes... yes, I remember." She said as she cleaned her face.

The two sat next to the temple, as Lala let Sectonia calm down, giving her water.

"You know who's got a lot of free time in their hands?" Sectonia asked Lala.

The spider said, "Egger Landers often like to... wish eternal sleep¹⁰⁰ upon me.

Some weeks ago I was given a photo by a Snakey that happened to be of Kirby.

⁹⁹ It's a completely different belief from what King Mayon said on a previous endnote, where he said that rebellion would be just as bad for Floralia as letting a corrupted Sectonia take over.

And in it, Kirby was holding a chocolate bar that had the word 'kys' written on it.¹⁰¹"

Lala laughed, "Kirby would never do that!.. I'm pretty sure that was doctored."

Sectonia nodded, and laughed, "People are so silly about Kirby," she said.

Lala then said, "I'm pretty sure the real Kirby can become a great friend of yours."

¹⁰⁰ That's a reference to a pause screen in Kirby: Triple Deluxe, where, in an imperative way, it is commanded for the player to "Grant unto the wicked queen the eternal beauty sleep she so desires!"

¹⁰¹ This image actually exists on the internet. In the Kirby anime, there's one episode where Kirby and other characters are buying food for a picnic. Falala shows Kirby a chocolate bar with the text "Choc" written on it. Kirby takes it, and Fololo takes it from him, explaining that it's meant to be eaten at the picnic. Kirby then takes the chocolate bar from Fololo, and there's a shot of Kirby holding the bar while smiling. That frame was then edited to have the "Choc" text edited for memes. In one of the edits, the chocolate bar was edited to say "kys" instead of "Choc".

09 - Let's Throw a Party

"I'm glad you're up for this job, Kawasaki." Lolo said, as he walked across the kitchen.

Kawasaki, a cook, had a face like Kirby's, but also had a tall orange egg-shaped body.

He wore a chef toque, along with a white apron with a blue pocket in the middle.

There was a pot of the size of barrel, filled with spaghetti with Alfredo sauce.

"I do have one dish ready," Kawasaki said, "The others will have to wait a little bit."

Lolo nodded, "Hopefully we can finish our quest soon, so we can throw this party!"

"Are you sure this will be it? You have been doing for four months now!" Kawasaki said.

Lolo wagged his finger, "We got some new members, and they seem to be quite skilled."

10 - Distant Destination

Hai gasped as he watched his friend Povynn being launched out of the arena.

"This one is for my friend." He said, as he aimed his crossbow at Crazy Hand. Five bolts hit the giant glove right up at the back, taking a great chunk of his health.

Hai then hid himself, to grab a new set of five bolts to reload his crossbow.

"Yes! Time for our plan!" Sectonia said, as she raised her golden scepter.

Several purple thunders came from the gem, striking both of the giant hands.

"Now! Grab your hammers!" Sectonia commanded, as Lolo, Lala, and Dedede came.

The three jumped into the air, and charged their hammers until they caught fire.

And then, at the same time, they all swung them towards Crazy Hand.

When they ran towards Master Hand, they saw him get up and fly way above them.

"Emronia, bring the noise!" Sectonia said, and turned her scepters into blades.

And so, the pink lakesprit rung her balls, sending loud waves at the glove.

She then ran away, to take cover, as Sectonia said, "Okay, wait until the next order!"

The sounds of a warp star come out in the distance, and the council looked above.

"Make way!" Povynn said as he piloted the star, heading towards Master Hand.

And so, with that star he was flying with, he finished off Master Hand.

The council was back together, and was ready to finish off the other hand.

11 - Admit it

Lolo and Lala sat at a train. It was the late morning, and they just left Floralia, for a bit.

Through the windows, a landscape of farms and mountains could be seen.

Higher mountains and a cloudy sky would appear as the train kept going.

Some sort of turbulence hits the train, causing the two orbs to look around.

Out there, at the end of the wagon, they saw a group of the creatures known as Gol.

A gol¹⁰² is a species commonly found in the land of King Mayon, they're reptiles.

They can shoot fire balls out of their mouths. The balls are nearly the size of Lolo.

Lolo whispered to Lala, "I think they're onto us." Then, the two ran to the other end.

Other passengers gasped and screamed as they saw fireballs travel through the hall.

Lolo and Lala jumped onto the floor, then grabbed onto the ceiling for a bit.

He threw one magic shot, one white ball, at one of the gols, and hoped for the best.

But then, the train slowed down, and both Lolo and Lala fell onto the front end.

The magic shot just fell to the ground, and the gols jumped into Lolo and Lala's place.

"Hammer time!" Lala said as she pulled out a hammer and swung it at the gols.

Lolo ran through them, and then grabbed Lala, "We must run!" He tells her.

The two kept running, jumping towards the seats and walls while avoiding the fire.

Then, from the door on the back end, another group of gols came in.

"Let me figure out something." Lolo says, and then raises his finger, "Aha!"

He opens a window, and climbs up to the top of the train, along with Lala.

Out in the distance, the two could see the castle that King Mayon was living in.

"Woooah!" Lolo held onto the train, "The wind is way too strong up here!"

Lala then closed down the windows from the outside, keeping the gols out.

"Let's keep running!" Lolo said, as he ran to the front part of the train, with Lala.

The train then got inside of a dim tunnel, it was tall enough for the two orbs still.

"Woah! Hold onto me!" Lolo nearly hit a sign under the tunnel as he held Lala.

Then, the two orbs jumped to another side, while dodging another sign.

A light was seen out at the end, and the train left the tunnel, revealing a city.

The buildings had a gothic style, with black roof shingles, and marble walls.

Most of the blocks had a group of buildings connected into each other.

While at the center they often had yards, sometimes with a pool or a garden.

Meanwhile, a few buildings had roofs that reached down to the floor.

The two orbs also noticed something coming closer, it was King Mayon's castle.

It surrounded by some towers and small palaces of around five floors each.

Three rivers, one to each third of the city, led right into that castle.

Lala looked back, and alerted Lolo that the train was getting close to the station.

"Okay, when I say jump, we'll jump out of this train together." Lolo told Lala.

The castle kept getting closer, and so was the station. The gols crawled out into the top.

"Jump!" Lolo said, as he jumped while holding Lala's hand. The two landed over a boat.

¹⁰² Gol is an enemy that appears in the Adventures of Lolo games.

They just got into a river, and rowed with all of their strength as they got away. Lolo sighed, and took a look above, at Mayon's city, "Well, I think we are on our way." A bridge of bricks covered the river, as the two reached the sewers of the castle. Green lights, similar to the color of the sea, decorated the sides of the river. Then, the boat stopped, and the two orbs looked at some iron ladders. Lolo grabbed onto the ladders and started climbing, Lala followed from below him. The green, marine-like lights kept going as the two climbed from floor to floor. The concrete walls looked dirty, as if they hadn't been cleaned in a while. The ladders¹⁰³ kept going, Lolo and Lala would have climbed 8 floors by now. "Lala... are you singing." Lolo asked as he kept climbing. Lala said, "Yeah, I thought it would calm me down." Lolo kept climbing, trying to not think of falling as he kept going. Then, after climbing 20 floors, the ladder reached its end, and the two stood up. They could hear the sound of the wind blowing from below. At the end of that hall, they opened a door, and entered the proper rooms of the castle. Dark tiles, colored like copper, decorated the floors, with red carpets on them. The walls had muted purple bricks and marble columns attached to them. The two orbs sneaked through the walls, as they heard the steps of Mayon's henchmen. "Hey... Lolo." Lala whispered to him, as she handed over some heart framers. A heart framer... is one of the objects that Lolo and Lala tend to collect. The appearance of these is of a red square with white borders and a white heart on it. It could be said they're a type of mystery box. They may have something or nothing. But, when they have something, it's often one of the magic shots that Lolo and Lala use. Lolo took the heart framers, stocked himself with magic shots, and nodded at Lala. The two then silently walked to another door and reached a nearly empty room. From the other side, a blocky, which was a huge being made of stone, waited for them. A blocky¹⁰⁴ is shaped like a cube, with brick shoes, and is made out of stones. They have a face over that cube shaped body, and they have no arms at all, just legs. And so, both Lolo and Lala ran from the blocky, who chased them. The blocky jumped and smashed onto the floor, nearly getting the two. Lala then stopped and threw a magic shot at blocky, stopping the enemy for a bit. But then, the blocky grew its body, or head, to a size much bigger than the two. Lolo gasped, "Oh! I haven't seen that happen before!" as he ran from side to side. The blocky nearly trapped the two, and fell onto the ground, striking it. Lala then figured out an idea, she jumped along with Lolo above the blocky. Then, as the blocky got up again, the two orbs jumped onto a balcony above that floor.

¹⁰³ The Eggerland/Adventures of Lolo games were first released on MSX computers.

¹⁰⁴ The blocky in this scene is supposed to look like a blocky from the Kirby series, most accurately, the new ones that debuted in Kirby: Triple Deluxe. Blocky (most specifically, the design that was used before Kirby: Triple Deluxe) is inspired by the enemy Rocky in the Eggerland/Adventures of Lolo games, however, it should not be confused with the enemy Rocky that appears in the Kirby games.

"Phew!" Lolo said, "What a way to skip a boss fight." he said, as he looked from above. Beyond the balcony, there were stairs, with red carpet on them. They went like a spiral.

"Okay... Let's stay quiet... we might be closer to Mayon." Lala whispered.

The two silently walked over the stairs, and reached the door at the end of the spiral. It led to a huge room, with four rows of columns, views to the Kingdom, and a throne.

There, at the end, at the throne, there he was. King Mayon was waiting for them.

"What a surprise. I thought you were too busy with the Floralian Queen." Mayon said.

Mayon then said, "Well, despite everything, I still kept myself protected."

"Well, I came here to say one thing..." Lolo said, "Kirby would never do that!"

Lala cries, "He would never! He's a precious boy, he's pure and reasonable!"

"Yeah! Even if he has an innocent image, he wouldn't be foolish!" Lolo said.

Mayon laughed, "I have no idea what you are talking about!"

Lolo then walked closer, "Don't lie to yourself, We know your secrets!"

"And we're gonna out you, for all the ulterior motives you have!" Lala said.

Lolo said, "Oh, to think about how poor Kirby has been tarnished by your gossip...

They all trace back to you. You've sent your people to our lands, and put dirt on him!

And it didn't end with him! You had to put dirt on us and Sectonia too!

Do you think it's fun? Well, hopefully you have some fun after this!"

Mayon then jumped back, and spit fire at the two orbs, "Well, you're not getting me!"

Lolo and Lala then ran while dodging each hot projectile, and reached Mayon.

Mayon then chuckled, "Wait! Don't trap me! My people will know it was you!"

Lolo and Lala then used their magic shots to trap Mayon, and throw him off the castle.

The blue orb took a deep breath, "Well... at least the message is clear."

Lala told him, "For me, the message I want is that we want peace once for all."

The two then looked back, and noticed a warp star at the other end of the room.

The star, with the two orbs, took them back to Floralia, as they flew high up in the sky.

12 - The Remaining One

While Povynn and Neblino kept fighting, the council wandered back to the hotel.

"If we get Neblino by tonight, tomorrow we will finish everything." Sectonia said.

Emronia asks, "And what happens if we don't? Will it be postponed?"

"Unfortunately yes... But I told everyone the battle will take place tomorrow." She said.

The pink lakesprit looks at a corner and notices a tail in the shape of a triple leaf.

And it wasn't a soft lakesprit tail, it was the green plant-like tail... of a Snivy.

"Secto- I mean, Your Majesty. Please wait here." Emronia said.

Sectonia said, "It's fine to call me by my name, we know each other well!"

The lakesprit blushed, "Got it! Well, I'll see all of you real soon!"

She hovered towards the tail, and went into the insides of the city.

This then led to her finding herself on a park, with a few stone bridges above.

Above one of the bridges, she could see Kinsello, the Snivy, staring back at her.

The lights of the buildings between the park reflected over his green body.

Once again, he was donning a new set of clothes. a thin jacket with subtle epaulettes.

Beneath his jacket, he was wearing a hoodie with the image of a snowy mountains.

A night sky with a nebula and stars could be seen above all that snow.

"I recognize you, you're one of Neblino's lackeys!" She pointed at him.

Kinsello looks at his premium brand watch, "Looks like it's taking him long."

He then looks back at Emronia, "Guess you're here to come for me as well."

"If that's so..." He jumps towards her while a pair of vines emerge from his neck.

She ducks and jumps while dodging his vines, which move like tentacles.

He then says, "Then let my fall be as glorious as the one he plans to have!"

Emronia jumps far back and takes out her twin bells, the Chime Clashers.

"Okay! Let's then come at me!" She tells him, and slaps him with her instruments.

The Snivy falls down to the grass, and lets some plants grow and protect him.

"I hope Sectonia doesn't get mad for this..." She whispered while leaping into the air.

Vines made up a whole barrier upwards, which were then cut by Emronia's bells.

Then, the two instruments hit the ground, and caught the Snivy. "There!"

A group of vines slapped Emronia's face and knocked her to the ground.

Kinsello chuckled, "I'm not tired yet, miss!" He then slapped her with his tail.

Emronia then got up and slapped him with her own tails, "Taste your own medicine!"

He was launched out of the barrier of plants, and passed out on the grass.

"Well, we fought like it was going out of style." Emronia laughed, and grabbed him.

She then approached the council, "Hey, everyone! Look who I got here!"

After explaining everything, the group decided to Kinsello until further advice.